Our grants program supports law-related projects throughout the Commonwealth that:

- Offer improved access to legal assistance for the underserved, either directly or by facilitating the coordination of integrated networks of competent, affordable legal representation;
- Cultivate an appreciation and understanding of the Rule of Law in society as a foundation of peace, stability, and prosperity;
- Provide education in support of the above 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.
Healing, Wellness, Music, and the Virginia Law Foundation?

Long, long time ago, at the ripe old age of 25, I began my career in law as an entry-level prosecutor in an office that resembled the set of “Barney Miller.” After rising through the ranks a bit and trying several serious cases that were, in the eyes of many, certain losers, I surprised everyone in my office, the judges, the defense, and most of all myself, by receiving a favorable verdict. I was soon pursued and ultimately seduced by a glitzy private firm that came calling for what appeared to be my now-valuable services — albeit as I learned later, most immediately I was pursued as dutiful billing fodder more than anything else.

As the story goes on, and to continue with the comparisons of the day — comparisons that indicate somehow my life has shifted from prime time to TV Land one night while I was sleeping — what was dangled in front of me was a chance to change my trajectory from the world of “Barney Miller” to the promise of “LA Law.” (Apologies all of you with bar numbers optional in the mandatory sense. Days turned into nights, which turned into days again until my sleep, I could not eat, I’d get call after call from CPS in the middle of the night needing to get approval for child removals from abusive households to save their lives at that moment — and what was left of my frazzled neurological system at the ripe old age of 34 was quickly burning through its warranty. I had to do something — anything, to slow things down.

Oh, my goodness, did I ever learn that being on the side of angels could potentially cause me to meet several of them sooner than I ever expected. I could not sleep, I could not eat, I’d get call after call from CPS, I could not jump at the opportunity. When I got to my fancy new firm, it somehow actually paid me less than what I made as a prosecutor — but somehow my life has shifted from prime time to TV Land one night while I was sleeping — what was dangled in front of me was a chance to change my trajectory from the world of “Barney Miller” to the promise of “LA Law.” (Apologies all of you with bar numbers optional in the mandatory sense. Days turned into nights, which turned into days again until my sleep, I could not eat, I’d get call after call from CPS in the middle of the night needing to get approval for child removals from abusive households to save their lives at that moment — and what was left of my frazzled neurological system at the ripe old age of 34 was quickly burning through its warranty. I had to do something — anything, to slow things down.

I recall sitting in my local law library on my birthday, taking stock of my life in some now mutated form of disarray, when I saw an article in the National Law Journal advertising for law editors at what was once known as (apologies again to those of you with higher bar numbers) The Michie Company in Charlottesville. That was it. I loved Virginia. I loved Charlottesville. I knew nothing about editing. But I’m a trial lawyer — I could persuade them. Editing sounded like the antidote for high-stakes trial work, and so I applied. And I was hired — and I learned how to pronounce Michie.

Despite my apparent ongoing quest to see how many pay cuts I could endure on my search to find happiness with a law degree, my personal journey toward wellness at 75% of what I was then earning began in 1989 on the road that ran from Albany, New York, to Charlottesville, Virginia. At that moment, I had absolutely no idea just how fortunate I was, and how many unwessful bullets I had probably just dodged.

Now, no life travels a straight line. No two journeys are the same. But as all interstates run to different places, generally the roads all look the same in the end. And as I’ve learned over time, so does the road to wellness no matter what inside us needs fixing. Though it was not easy to find, I’m glad I found this road, and now, as I’ve come to know this road all too.

“Every time I thought I’d got it made, It seemed the taste was not so sweet”

— David Bowie, “Changes”
Do you believe in rock ‘n’ roll? Can music save your mortal soul?
— Don McLean, “American Pie”

Our new Wellness Institute will present CLE programs designed to vanquish the stress-demons that haunt our profession by not just cataloging them, but by offering solutions that attendees can use immediately to try to move their lives into a better place. We will offer therapeutic interludes to help cleanse the mind throughout this two-day event, and most importantly, we will introduce the centerpiece of our institute — a journey into the healing power of music. Can music save your mortal soul? Our answer — more than you might think!

Two of our key Virginia Law Foundation leaders — Katie Arata our Sr. Director of Development and Philanthropy, and Cara Schneider, our new Director of Philanthropy Marketing — bring rich personal and professional backgrounds in music and understanding of its therapeutic benefits. Additionally, they are well acquainted with renowned music therapists and other guest speakers and collaborators from the music industry, who will join us, infusing that dimension into the veins of this institute in world-class and one-of-a-kind way that we expect will start the process of restoring joy, creativity, and a renewed zest for being whole and well into the lives of those who join us.

I heard his refrain as the signal changed
He was playing real good, for free
— Joni Mitchell, “For Free”

This institute will be held at the Barns at Wolf Trap, and through the overwhelming and ongoing generosity of countless donors from across the state and across the country to the Adam Roush Scholarship Fund, along with contributions from our own funding sources, this Institute will be entirely free to attend — no tuition, and all meals and lodging provided. We will also be offering other benefits designed to help relieve some of the burdens of practice and mandatory CLE requirements. All of this will be free of charge as well.

And in case you were not aware, Adam was a beloved member of the Virginia Law Foundation staff and family. He selflessly poured his energy and passion into helping create this institute just prior to his tragically untimely passing, but the foundation he helped pour remains. We now stand proud and determined to not only make this institute everything he envisioned and would want for those who were suffering the pain of not being well, but to make it available to all who may need it regardless of one’s budget. While this institute belongs to our entire legal community, it is Adam’s above all, and we intend to honor his dream and his passion for saving lives into perpetuity.

As you know, we are a charitable foundation, but in the end, what does that mean? To me, it means that, above all, we are people serving people, and as a foundation, we know if we can help those who serve others feel better, stronger, less stressed, more complete, and more alive while doing so, then they, their clients, the legal system, and the entire state of Virginia benefits.

So as we design and build our Wellness Institute, if in recounting their time with us, those in attendance can tell a friend, acquaintance, or loved one as they close their eyes and envision those two days at the Wolf Trap Barns, that “long, long time ago, I can still remember how that music used to make me smile” — well, if they can do that, then a good part of our work will have been done.

Raymond M. White
Executive Director of the Virginia Law Foundation
Looking Back to Look Ahead

In 1974, the Virginia Law Foundation was founded, and in 2024, we will celebrate its 50th anniversary. As the Virginia Law Foundation plans for this milestone and looks to the next 50 years, the mission remains more important than ever: to promote the Rule of Law, access to justice, and legal education.

In his report to the nation on September 30, 1962, John F. Kennedy said, “Our nation is founded on the principle that observance of the law is the eternal safeguard of liberty and defiance of the law is the surest road to tyranny.” The Virginia Law Foundation, by the work of its professional staff and through the efforts of its Fellows and generous donors, is an organization that not only revere the law, but also works to safeguard the principles of our cultural and legal system through its philanthropic and educational efforts.

As a foundation, we take to heart the simple yet powerful message from Justice Frankfurter when he said (Reminiscences, 1960, Page 19): “Fragile as reason is and limited as law is as the institutionalized medium of reason, that’s all we have between us and the tyranny of mere will and the cruelty of unbridled, undisciplined feelings.”

Clearly, much like our mission, these lofty statements regarding the Rule of Law ring true today and are made more relevant by the events that have challenged our nation, our communities, and our legal system. Today there is a powerful need to promote the Rule of Law, fairness, and access to justice in the legal system and educate those who work within the system and promote it, legislate it, and teach it.

It is difficult to summarize the tremendous work of the Virginia Law Foundation this year, but I want to share how we have realized our mission not only for this year but in service to our collective future as we look forward to our 50th anniversary.

Grants
This year our grants committee, chaired by Colleen Quinn, meticulously evaluated many grant applications requesting more than $870,000. Through their thoughtful deliberation, the committee elected to award nearly $600,000 in grants to 24 dedicated organizations. These grants support a variety of projects that align with our mission and make a significant difference in the lives of thousands of Virginians.

In celebration of our 2022 recipients, we hosted a luncheon and award ceremony on August 30th in Richmond, and at that event, we learned how powerful the impact of our grantmaking is on the citizens of our community. So powerful, in fact, that our only regret is that we could not do more given the amount applied for. Still, we are proud to make a positive difference that resonates through these organizations and our state. You will be introduced to each of our grant recipients in this report, and I commend you to learn about their outstanding and essential work.

Philanthropy
The Virginia Law Foundation’s ability to give more than half a million dollars in grants on an annual basis depends on the contributions of many. Our philanthropy has grown and developed through the leadership of our professional staff, including Ray White, our Executive Director; Katie Arata, our Sr. Director of Development and Philanthropy; and the work of our development and philanthropy committee, chaired by J. Lee Osborne.

With their good work, our donors are responding in generous ways, our community of supporters is growing, and our relationships with partners old and new are deepening. As stewards of our donors’ gifts, it is our privilege to say that 100% of every donation goes to support our annual grants program, and the power of these contributions is augmented by the sound financial management of our endowment.

Finance
Chair by Justice Jane Marum Roush, our finance committee worked diligently this year to maintain the financial stability that an organization like ours needs to be the pillar of philanthropic and educational strength that Virginians have come to rely upon. In turn, we rely upon the professional financial managers who carefully invest our endowment funds in a conservative and careful way.

Under the careful guidance of Jane and the limitless diligence of vice chair Stephen Noona, considerable time and energy was put into ensuring we have the necessary guarantee during these particularly turbulent times, and we are proud to now be among the well-served clients of J.P. Morgan Private Bank, based in Richmond and Washington, DC.

Fellows
Virginia Law Foundation Fellows are citizen lawyers representing the highest ideals of the law. The process of selecting our Fellows is more rigorous than it has been in previous years, and earlier this year, we proudly inducted 27 Class of 2022 Fellows, hosting a virtual ceremony to honor their achievements and to welcome them to this network of civic and community leaders.

In 2022 our Fellows committee, chaired by Margaret Nelson, sought nominations from a broad array of practice groups and localities, all in an effort to recognize the work of Virginia lawyers across our state. A
Thanks to all of our donors, customers, volunteers, staff, and community. I look forward to helping further our shared mission for years to come.

— John D. McGavin

Education

Virginia CLE® has continued to develop new means and methods for presenting our leading continuing legal education. The pandemic changed the way many people consume their professional education programming, and this evolution thus also changed our operations forever. Under the experienced and watchful eyes of Director of Seminars Tanya Morris and Director of Distance Education Mary Forbes, we have brought back our trademark in-person seminars and methods for presenting our leading continuing education forum.

Earlier this year, we opened the long-awaited, high-tech Bolzien-Gaither Education Center (BGEC) just outside Richmond, celebrating its launch with an artful event in mid-April that not only signaled the new age of on-site programs and live-interactive webcasts, often enhanced by special events. Instead of investing the cost of renting hotels and paying the many charges associated with such an approach, we now can provide our state-of-the-art webcast distribution network.

Since opening, the Center has presented several live-on-site programs and live-interactive webcasts, often enhanced by special events. Instead of investing the cost of renting hotels and paying the many charges associated with such an approach, we now can provide services with our own equipment from our own facility, at a modern, comfortable central location equipped not only with the latest broadcast equipment but also the latest in air-purification technology as the safety of our guests, faculty, and staff has been paramount to us since March 2020. Placing your safety above all is a pledge we made then, we make now, and we make forever. The BGEC is designed with that in mind.

This year, we continued to develop signature programs at signature locations addressing critical topics that are important to our mission. In June, we presented the inaugural Civil Rights Law Institute on the grounds of Monticello in Charlottesville and in partnership with the Virginia Bar Association, the Old Dominion Bar Association, and Thomas Jefferson’s Monticello. This Institute explored police misconduct and civil rights from legal and societal perspectives and featured nationally recognized attorneys, judges, historians, members of government, law enforcement officials, and others, who presented significant material in a continuing legal education forum.

The Civil Rights Law Institute is part of a growing list of special institutes we have built with extraordinary partners in a way that only VLF/Virginia CLE® can present. Other programs include the Constitutional Law Institute held at Mt. Vernon, which will return during 2023. We will also launch our long-awaited inaugural Wellness Institute, in consultation with JLAP and the Virginia Supreme Court’s Wellness Advisory Committee, chaired by Justice William Minor.

Finally, we have continued the development of our Qualified Counselor and Qualified Master Counselor Designations Program, which allow attorneys who take sufficient hours and demonstrate sufficient expertise in discrete disciplines to obtain a certification from the Virginia Law Foundation of their excellence in practice areas. This has become a very important part of our legal education service, and we are thrilled to recognize individuals who have earned their Accredited Counselor or Master Counselor designations.

History

Board member and chair of our newly formed History Committee Darrel Tollar Mason has undertaken a thorough, detail-oriented trip through our archives to formalize our history as we near our 50th anniversary. Her efforts have unearthed beautiful stories and helped us understand just how far the Virginia Law Foundation has come. This historical evaluation helps guide our future, especially as we contemplate where we want the Virginia Law Foundation to be in 50 years from now. Darrel’s work through our archives has produced weekly “fun facts,” which have made us laugh and also taught lessons we hope to never forget as we look forward to the next 50 years.

As part of our historical evaluation, our Board of Directors and Committee Chairs had a retreat in April to conduct a look-back as we look ahead. At the retreat, and with the help of Darrel Tollar Mason and her history and through the oral history provided by past Virginia Law Foundation Presidents Steve Busch and Jim Meath, we had the opportunity to see just how far the Virginia Law Foundation has come. The organization has been transformed financially from a position of financial insecurity and very modest grant-making to where it is today. With an endowment, depending upon the fluctuation of our investments in the approximate amount of $18,000,000 to $20,000,000, grants approaching $600,000, and a dedicated staff, the Virginia Law Foundation is better today than it ever has been.

Our Professional Team

The board leadership of the Virginia Law Foundation is comprised of volunteers, and our volunteers have been generous with their time, enthusiastic with their input, and always engaged. However, our success requires leadership and outstanding thoughtfulness by our professional team. Ray White, through his guidance, creativity, and enthusiasm has taken the Virginia Law Foundation forward both financially, professionally, and in more ways than we can adequately describe in this annual report. His dedicated team includes Stacie Merriam, Sr. Director of Finance, Teresa Moore, Sr. Director of Philanthropy Operations, Katie Arata, Sr. Director of Development and Philanthropy, Tanya Morris, Director of Seminars, Nic DeAngio, Sr. Director of Marketing and Communications, Valerie Gooch, Sr. Director of Publications, and Mary Forbes, Director of Distance Education, along with all of the valued staff that make this organization so successful and impactful.

Expression of Gratitude

As this year’s President of the Virginia Law Foundation, it has been a great opportunity to witness collaboration between our volunteers and the professional staff and the many ways the mission of the Virginia Law Foundation has taken shape. As we look back upon the past 50 years and prepare for the next 30, we all give thanks for the many opportunities that we have been provided, mindful that to those whom much is given, much is expected. For the citizen lawyers and Fellows of the Virginia Law Foundation, now as much as ever and perhaps more than ever, it is our time to give thanks for what we have received, give thanks for the opportunities to make our legal community and our state better, and give thanks for the fact that we live in a place that honors the Rule of Law as the ideal that holds our beloved nation together.

My most sincere thanks to all of our donors, customers, volunteers, staff members, and community. I look forward to helping further our shared mission for many years to come.

John D. McGavin
President of the Virginia Law Foundation
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2017
Irving M. Blank
2016
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2015
James V. Meath
2014
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2013
Frank A. Thomas, III
2012
William R. Van Buren, III
2001

David P. Bobzien
2010–11
Hon. Whittington W. Clement
2009–10
Mary Ann Delano
2008–09
John L. Walker, III
2007–08
John A.C. Keith
2006–07
John R. Fletcher
2005–06
W. Scott Street, III
2004–05
Thomas C. Brown, Jr.
2003–04
Robert J. Merrick
2002–03
Nancy N. Rogers
2001–02

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1989–90

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Suzanne Stinnett
Senior Director of National CLE Project & Experience Philanthropy Programming

† Deceased
It was a sunny summer day at Thomas Jefferson’s Monticello on the day of the inaugural Civil Rights Law Institute. As guests were shuttled to Montalto, overlooking the historic estate, they were met with a beautiful view of the Blue Ridge Mountains and Charlottesville nestled beneath. The setting reinforced the magnitude of the Institute’s timely theme and served as a fitting stage for meaningful discussions on police misconduct and civil rights from legal and societal perspectives.

The Institute opened with a cocktail reception and dinner with optional tours of Monticello on the evening before discussions began. Leslie Greene Bowman, president of the Thomas Jefferson Foundation, opened this evening with remarks acknowledging the significant contributions of Thomas Jefferson as well as his most glaring contradiction as an enslaver of more than 600 people. Reflecting upon this aspect of Jefferson’s life with the subject matter of the Institute in mind added relevant context and depth to the discussions of policing and civil rights in America. The evening concluded with an impassioned keynote address from former Virginia Supreme Court Justice John Charles Thomas and a recitation of his poem, “Light the Soul,” which set the tone for the remainder of the Institute.

Along with our Institute co-presenters — the Virginia Bar Association, the Old Dominion Bar Association, and Thomas Jefferson’s Monticello — the Virginia Law Foundation assembled civic leaders from several regions and professions. Institute faculty included leading attorneys and scholars, major players in the Commonwealth’s law enforcement and governmental institutions, college administrators, journalists, historians, and directors of civil rights organizations. Present for the discourse were Senator Jennifer L. McClellan; Senator Thomas K. Norment, Jr.; University of South Carolina Professor Seth W. Stoughton, a key witness in the trial of Derek Chauvin for the death of George Floyd; and many others.
Participants, both virtual and in-person, were able to ask questions and engage with the faculty in open dialogue at each session. The four panel discussions centered around historical perspectives and precedent regarding law and legislative intent on the nature and purpose of policing, police power on university campuses, the law of excessive force and legal remedies, and the legal and practical ramifications of new legislation designed to curtail police abuses.

“The Virginia Law Foundation was established in 1974, the Old Dominion Bar Association in 1942, the Virginia Bar Association welcomed its first members in 1888, and Monticello was built in 1772. With a combined history of over five hundred years, I dare say that this annual Civil Rights Law Institute has taken its rightful place among the great accomplishments born of each institution over time,” said Ray White, executive director of the Virginia Law Foundation. “We’ve proudly constructed a monumental and enduring contribution to the future of Virginia and, perhaps, of America.”

The Virginia Law Foundation thanks those who attended, supported, or helped present this special and timely inaugural Institute. It was an immense success thanks to the contributions of many individuals, organizations, and sponsors.

If you would like to revisit or watch the Civil Rights Law Institute for CLE credit, the complete program is available on demand at vacle.org/civilrightsonline.
The strength and dedication of our profession to the dominant principle that the law is to protect, as well as to prosecute, was on full display at the inaugural Civil Rights Law Institute.

There is a power of place at Monticello. Thomas Jefferson would approve of this gathering of leaders.

— David Landin
Trustee of the Thomas Jefferson Foundation
The Designations Program

The Virginia Law Foundation / Virginia CLE® Designations Program offers a prestigious new form of professional recognition—an accreditation in several practice areas from the leading law-related foundation and CLE provider in Virginia. Though not a certification, the designation indicates that approved candidates have taken a rigorous course of study over three years from Virginia CLE® and have met other practice-area and peer-review criteria that demonstrate their ability to practice at a high level in their area or areas of specialty. The individuals listed below have been approved by the Virginia Law Foundation Board.

If you are interested in joining our list of Qualified Counselors and Qualified Master Counselors, you can learn more about our Designations Program at vacle.org/designations.

Virginia Law Foundation / Virginia CLE® Qualified Counselors and Qualified Master Counselors

David B. Bice
Qualified Master Counselor in Divorce and Family Law Practice 2022–2024
The Bice Law Group

Gorham S. “Rory” Clark
Qualified Master Counselor in Trusts and Estates Practice 2022–2024
The Legacy Elder Law Center

Brendan Dunning
Qualified Master Counselor in Trial Practice/Litigation 2022–2024
The Law Office of Brendan U. Dunning, P.C.

Vicki Francois
Qualified Master Counselor in Divorce and Family Law Practice 2022–2024
The Bice Law Group

Rhiannon Hartman
Qualified Counselor in Trusts and Estates Practice 2022–2024
Carrell, Blanton Ferris & Associates

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Qualified Master Counselor in Trusts and Estates Practice 2022–2024
Mansoor Law Firm PLLC

Charles R. Samuels
Qualified Master Counselor in Trial Practice/Litigation 2022–2024
Charles R. Samuels, Attorney at Law, PLLC

Light the Soul

BY HON. JOHN CHARLES THOMAS

Light lay quietly at the Beginning
’Til it was called into action by God
Then it split the darkness, warmed the cold
Brought motion to the stillness, touched our souls

And they say there is light at the end
As we brace ourselves for the final journey
The Word is there is light even then
Light that Blinds you, Binds you, then sets you free

From Alpha to Omega, the Light shines through
From dawn to dusk it orders what we do
By particle and wave it prompts the birds to sing
By pulse and reflection, it points out the way

Light can lift depression, dispel despair
Bring Hope to the weary, lead us from fear
Light can raise up emotions, quiet the storm
Beckon us from rolling seas into the calm

We learn by light, we grow by light
We sit in the dark transfixed by its sight
And as the light flickers our hearts respond
We can see the connections we can feel the bonds

It has been given to some to handle the light
To mold it, to craft it, to bend it to right
It has fallen to some to sculpt what we see
To sharpen, to brighten, to make it run free

To those who would hold light in their hands
There is much to remember, to understand
In the Right Light, Love can shine
In the Right Light, We can leave Wrong behind

By the Light there is good we can know
In the Light Justice can grow: Light the Soul!
The Virginia Law Foundation was thrilled to award nearly $550,000 in grants to 24 organizations this year. Since the establishment of our grants program in 1984, the Foundation has distributed more than $27.5 million in grants to initiatives and nonprofits throughout Virginia aligning with the Foundation’s mission to promote the Rule of Law, access to justice, and law-related education.

**Blue Ridge Legal Services**

Free Civil Legal Assistance for Low-Income Seniors — $25,000

Blue Ridge Legal Services is a charitable legal aid program committed to eliminating poverty-based inequities in the civil justice system by providing high-quality legal advice and representation to low-income residents of the Shenandoah and Roanoke Valleys. This project will provide free legal assistance in the form of legal information, legal advice and brief services, and direct representation to low-income seniors in the Central Shenandoah Valley — namely, the counties of Rockingham, Augusta, Page, Highland, and the cities of Harrisonburg, Staunton, and Waynesboro. The project will target seniors with critical legal needs, with a special focus on elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation cases.

**Appalachian School of Law**

Medical-Legal Partnership — $25,000

The Appalachian School of Law (ASL) continues their Medical-Legal Partnership with Ballad Health, an integrated healthcare system serving Southwest Virginia. This partnership maintains the goals of improving access to justice for medical patients with unmet legal needs and addressing healthcare demands attributable to or exacerbated by unmet legal needs. Under the supervision of licensed attorneys, ASL students will provide free legal services to Ballad’s low-income patients, which gives the students an experiential learning opportunity. Virginia Tech’s Pamplin College of Business will contribute analytics to measure the program’s success.

**Capital Area Immigrants’ Rights Coalition**

Virginia Justice Project — $20,000

The Capital Area Immigrants’ Rights Coalition (CAIR) strives to ensure equal justice for all immigrant adults and children at risk of detention and deportation in the capital region and beyond through direct legal representation, know-your-rights presentations, impact litigation, advocacy, and the enlistment and training of intern attorneys. The Virginia Justice Project ensures that public defenders and court-appointed counsel in Virginia are educated regarding the immigration consequences of crimes. This greatly increases the likelihood that an indigent non-citizen in Virginia will have access to defense counsel competent to advise them. During its eighth year, CAIR will train 600 Virginia criminal defense attorneys and support the 315 Virginia public defender attorneys in the 25 public defender offices and the 2,500 court-appointed attorneys in Virginia. This project will impact more than 3,000 indigent non-citizen Virginia residents involved in the criminal justice system.

T. Burgess       Derek Todd

This year’s grant recipients serve diverse communities and regions of the Commonwealth and draw our attention to our state’s profound need for adequate and accessible legal aid. Our grants program allows us to play an essential part in promoting the important services that these deserving grant recipients provide. Their work supports indigent people, victims of domestic abuse, underserved communities, immigrants, elders, and anyone in need of legal services. Our commitment to upholding the Rule of Law and creating equitable access to justice is more affirmed than ever by their good work.

— Colleen M. Quinn
Chair, Grants Committee
2022 Grants

CancerLINC
Access to Justice for Latino and Spanish-Speaking Cancer Patients in Central & Southside Virginia — $10,000

CancerLINC provides access to justice for low-income cancer patients who otherwise would not have attorneys, financial professionals, and others to help them address the non-medical problems they face as a result of their cancer diagnosis — medical debt, eviction, bankruptcy, employment insecurity, and similar challenges. Cancer is the leading cause of death among Hispanics and Latinos, and due to disproportionate poverty and other healthcare barriers, Hispanics are especially vulnerable to cancer inequalities. In 2021, CancerLINC created their first-ever bilingual language resources, and this grant will support continued development of bilingual resources and programs to better support underserved Latino cancer patients in Central and Southside Virginia. In addition, CancerLINC will be launching a community outreach effort, increasing access to pro bono legal and financial resources these patients could not afford otherwise.

Charlottesville Albemarle Bar Association
Volunteer Lawyer Program — $12,500

The Charlottesville Albemarle Bar Association’s Volunteer Lawyer Program (VLP) is a community-driven and community-responsive project that provides a structure for attorneys to deliver free high-impact legal services that transform the lives of their neighbors while deepening attorneys’ pre-existing commitment to justice-seeking work. Over the next three years, the VLP will take a novel approach that fosters innovative, transformative, and reinvigorating pro bono projects, allowing attorneys to respond more readily to unexpected and unsupported community crises. By creating the infrastructure for pro bono legal services that maximize community responsiveness alongside participating lawyers’ passions and talents, the VLP will amplify access to justice by facilitating unique and meaningful legal relationships between attorneys, their clients, and the community.

Drive-To-Work
Restoring Driving Privileges for Underserved Markets — $25,000

Drive-To-Work (DTW) assists low-income and previously incarcerated persons to restore their driving privileges so they can drive to work, maintain a job, and improve their lives and communities at large. Many DTW clients face extreme challenges due to reentry employment issues, and many have experienced job loss because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Support from the Virginia Law Foundation will allow DTW to offer financial support to clients having difficulty paying for legal services and overcoming the barriers to getting their license restored and will increase the number of inquiries, applicants, clients, and driver’s licenses restored by 10%.

Fairfax Law Foundation
Northern Virginia Pro Bono Law Center Neighborhood Outreach Program — $25,000

The Northern Virginia Pro Bono Law Center of the Fairfax Law Foundation provides legal assistance to poverty and low-income residents through their Neighborhood Outreach Program. As part of this Program, volunteer lawyers travel to partnering sites throughout the community or meet virtually to help those most in need. Due to their work with long-standing community organizations, the Fairfax Law Foundation broadens this program’s impact on those who would otherwise be denied access to legal service by enabling pro bono attorneys to meet with potential populations seeking legal aid in their facilities. The partnership between the law center and each of the Neighborhood sites is crucial as it helps the Neighborhood Outreach Program reach its intended beneficiaries and alleviates the burden on low-income clients, making it easier for them to meet with a pro bono attorney.

Freekind
Offramps Program — $30,000

Freekind works to prevent human trafficking and support those it impacts on their journey to freedom. Their Offramps Program improves access to justice for victims of human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation by strengthening criminal justice partnerships to more effectively identify victims who would otherwise go unidentified or misidentified, and by advocating for alternative sentencing through restorative services rather than increased incarceration. With the support from the Virginia Law Foundation, Freekind will add a third case manager to their team, which will empower the organization to reach 65 additional survivors of human trafficking in at least one or more new jails. They will also develop protocols that will reduce harm and enhance early identification of victims, giving them access to services.

Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation
Offramps Program — $30,000

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Without Drive-To-Work, I wouldn’t have been able to accomplish all that I did in such a short time.
It was life changing.

— Kaci
A Drive-To-Work Client
Ken Fife
Jamestown Rediscovery
Foundation (continued)
summer of 1619. There, the fundamental principles of a free people — private property, Rule of Law, and self-governance — were established and democracy in America was born. Today, it is essential to examine the Rule of Law, and learning about our nation’s past allows us to influence the future. With support from the Virginia Law Foundation, JRF will facilitate First Assembly education through live tours and programs, virtual field trips, and recorded tours for Jamestown’s web outreach.

Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation

Justice in the Classroom 2.2 — $30,000
The John Marshall Center (JMC) educates the public about the Rule of Law under the Constitution through the life, character, and services of America’s great chief justice. Teachers in Virginia appreciate John Marshall Center’s help in equipping them to better educate students about the relationship between a fair and impartial judiciary and the Rule of Law. Created by JMC to enhance the teaching of history, government, and civics to middle and high school students, Justice in the Classroom gives teachers access to high-quality, up-to-date teaching materials and empowers students with the knowledge and tools necessary to be civic-ready in Virginia. For Justice in the Classroom 2.2, JMC will increase direct services and content delivery to students, continue to support teachers with Virginia-SOL-based lesson plans and materials, and maintain thought leadership in Rule of Law education.

John Marshall Center for Constitutional History & Civics

Jazz4Justice
Jazz4Justice Concerts — $8,000
Through collaborative partnerships with the legal community, the business community, the music community, and universities throughout Virginia, Jazz4Justice raises public awareness about the justice gap and music education. Jazz4Justice uses music as a vehicle to connect communities, educate audiences on the justice gap, and fundraise to support legal-aid organizations helping those most in need. Several times a year, university, college, or community college music programs will host a concert featuring jazz music, and the local bar or bar foundation will solicit sponsors and promote the concert to the community. Net proceeds from the event are divided between the bar foundation/local legal aid and the music program. The Virginia Law Foundation grant will enable Jazz4Justice to create additional educational content such as a video or livestream, focusing on the Rule of Law and the need for all Virginians to have access to justice.

Jazz4Justice

Justice in the Classroom 2.2 — $30,000
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John Marshall Center for Constitutional History & Civics

Just Neighbors
Rural Immigration Legal Services Program — $20,000
The Just Neighbors Rural Immigration Legal Services Program provides high-quality immigration legal services to Virginia’s most vulnerable immigrants, asylees, and refugees — who were even more vulnerable due to how the pandemic disproportionately affected this population. Immigrants in rural areas of Virginia lack direct, immigration-focused services, and while many have a pathway to legal status, this can only be achieved through competent legal representation. Since the program’s launch in 2019, Just Neighbors has expanded its geographic reach and access to justice efforts. With the support of this grant, they will provide immigration legal services to at least 50 rural Virginia families, offer immigration law education to both immigrants and the community at-large, and increase access to justice by training and educating volunteers and local practitioners about immigration law.

Just Neighbors

2022 Grants
Creating our modern, democratic government. To meet the continued challenge of improving constitutional literacy, Montpelier launched the Constitution Initiative to empower people to become educated, engaged, and active participants in democracy. The Virginia Law Foundation grant will support the Constitution Initiative Director in bolstering free programming for students, teachers, and the community; fostering new partnerships with civic-focused organizations; and implementing workshops that integrate the historical and contextual background of First Amendment rights in facilitated small group sessions.

**Randolph-Macon College**

**Virginia Amendments Project — $14,569**

Randolph-Macon College integrates outstanding liberal arts education and success strategies to develop the mind and character of its students with the ultimate intention of preparing undergraduates for successful lives. The Virginia Amendments Project at Randolph-Macon College (VAP-RMC) will provide the first publicly available resource listing amendments to the Constitution of Virginia. VAP-RMC will catalog and analyze the current list of 53 amendments, provide the first searchable digital copy of the 1971 Constitution revision, and offer a hub of public conservation, scholarship, and civic and legal education concerning Virginia’s rich constitutional history.

**Resolution Virginia**

**Access to Co-Parenting Education — $8,000**

Resolution Virginia is a consortium of non-profit community-based centers working to help Virginians resolve conflict constructively. Staff and affiliates provide affordable mediation, training, conflict coaching, classes, and restorative justice services to community members in need. Virginia §16.1-278.15 and 20-103 requires parties to any petition where a child whose custody, visitation, or support is contested to attend an educational seminar that addresses the effects of separation or divorce on children, parenting responsibilities, options for conflict resolution, and financial responsibilities. This court-ordered seminar can be a sincere financial hardship for many, and this grant will support indigent parents by offsetting most of the cost of the Access to Co-Parenting Education program by reducing the cost to $10. This critically important seminar educates separating or separated parents on how to co-parent their children in a supportive and non-confrontational manner, and in turn, their children experience the emotional and financial benefits of having both parents involved in their lives.

**Southwest Virginia Legal Aid Society**

**Prevention Awareness for Vulnerable Populations — $18,000**

The Southwest Virginia Legal Aid Society (SVLAS) champions equal justice for low-income Virginians. They work to remedy the conditions that burden this community by providing high-quality, courteous, and effective legal services and information to those facing serious threats to their personal, economic, or family stability. In an effort to enhance awareness and knowledge of attorneys concerning elder abuse, guardianship for elders, domestic violence, and sexual assault, SVLAS is developing two one-day training conferences for attorneys to learn more about the law and dynamics of these issues. Each training will serve attorneys, prosecutors, magistrates, judges, clerks, court unit staff, law enforcement, and others. The conferences’ sessions will offer quality education to increase professional development and awareness while offering local and regional networking opportunities.

**VA Civics**

**We the People: The Citizen & the Constitution Teacher Training Cohort Professional Development Series — $20,000**

VA Civics empowers the next generation of leaders in Virginia through constitutional literacy, critical thinking, and civic engagement. Using a rigorous and proven professional development program, Virginia
VA Civics (continued)

Civics will train middle and high school teachers on using the We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution curriculum to increase teacher and student knowledge of the U.S. Constitution, the Rule of Law, institutions of government, rights and responsibilities, and citizenship. Renowned scholars will facilitate development seminars across a fully funded four-day Summer Institute, and four, one-day follow-up trainings throughout the year. The We the People curriculum has been fully mapped to Virginia’s Standards of Learning requirements and serves as an effective Performance-Based Assessment for teachers.

Virginia Hispanic Chamber Foundation

Hybrid Civil and Immigration Assistance Project — $20,000

Established in 2003 as a 501c3 partner to the Virginia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the Virginia Hispanic Chamber Foundation (VAHF) creates, promotes, and enhances the educational, social, and financial well-being of Latinos and supports cross-cultural economic growth in Virginia. The impact of COVID on the Hispanic community has been far-reaching. In 2020, Hispanics made up 9% of the population but 41% of the state’s COVID-19 cases, and due to a variety of challenges, including the pandemic, the VAHF was unable to provide in-person legal services from 2019 to 2021. With support from the Virginia Law Foundation, the VAHF will develop a hybrid model of the Civil & Immigration Assistance Project and will use technology to offer pro bono legal services to an especially vulnerable community. This project will create an accessible network of pro bono legal clinics, provide bilingual services and information to the at-risk Hispanic/Latinx population across the state, and increase law firm partnerships to support increased capacity of clients.

Virginia Judges and Lawyers Assistance Program

Wellness Conferences — $15,000

Virginia Judges and Lawyers Assistance Program (VJLAP) provides confidential, non-disciplinary assistance to lawyers, judges, law students, and legal professionals who are experiencing professional impairment as a result of substance abuse or mental health problems. VJLAP’s services are designed to promote recovery, protect the client, prevent disciplinary problems for the lawyer, support their families and associates, and strengthen the profession. To better equip legal professionals with information and tools for detecting, intervening early, and addressing substance use and mental health concerns, VJLAP will present three multi-day conferences for them in 2022: the 19th Annual VJLAP Fall Retreat, the 2nd Annual Mid-Atlantic Women Legal Professionals’ Retreat, and the 2nd Annual George H. Hettrick Volunteer Symposium. Each will provide opportunities for professional enhancement, wellness skill-building, and community-building.

Virginia Law Schools

Public Service Internships — $60,000

Supported by the Virginia Law Foundation since 1989, public service internships for first- and second-year law students help bring to light the importance of public interest and pro bono work. Each of Virginia’s eight American Bar Association-accredited law schools receives funding for public-service internships during the summer. The students work under the supervision of an attorney. Depending on the missions and caseloads of their host organizations, some students gain experience working on individual client matters while others work on larger projects in an organization’s service area.

Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance

Project for the Empowerment of Survivors — $25,000

The Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance’s Project for the Empowerment of Survivors (PES) bridges the justice gap faced by underserved Virginians who are survivors of sexual and domestic violence. Through this program, the Action Alliance offers direct legal assistance to Virginia’s survivors of sexual and domestic violence and training to the legal community to expand capacity to meet survivors’ needs. PES offers survivors, particularly those who are traditionally underserved, an opportunity to find answers to legal questions, gain insight into additional legal issues, carefully weigh legal options via phone and chat, and be linked with legal advocacy and legal services in their communities.

Virginia Victim Assistance Network

Victim Assistance Academies — $25,000

Virginia Victim Assistance Network (VVAN) advocates for the needs of crime victims and provides victim assistance training for professionals and is the Commonwealth’s statewide membership organization for victim/witness advocates and other victim services professionals. Each year, its membership organizations assist over 75,000 victims of crime. The Virginia Law Foundation’s grant will support the Victim Assistance Academies (Basic and Advanced) and Directors’ Forum, which are annual, comprehensive trainings for both beginning and experienced crime victim advocates. These trainings will provide critical legal education to crime victim advocates and will enable them to serve victims of crime in Virginia with current, evidence-based practices that promote access to justice, amplify victims’ needs, and minimize the re-traumatization often inherent within the legal system.
The Virginia Law Foundation held its Fellows Class of 2022 Induction Ceremony on January 26. Nominated confidentially by their peers, Fellows are recognized for leadership in their practices, their communities, and the Commonwealth. The Class of 2022 joins a group of more than 600 of the best and brightest legal practitioners in Virginia who are committed to the highest ideals of the law and exemplify the concept of citizen lawyer. Though the ceremony could not be held in person this year, the Foundation was thrilled to feature the Honorable Barbara Milano Keenan, Senior Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, as keynote speaker.

“I felt deeply honored when I learned that the Foundation selected me as a Fellow for the Class of 2022. The Fellows, past and present, represent some of the best of Virginia’s bench and bar.

– Roscoe C. Roberts

The Fellows Class of 2022

Maryse Celine Allen (Woodbridge)
David Dennis Beidler (Roanoke)
Brian Lawrence Buniva (Richmond)
Angela Adair Cioffi (Charlottesville)
Robert B. “Chip” Delano, Jr. (Richmond)
Robert Bruce Dickerson (Prince William)
Hon. J. Michael Gamble (Amherst)
Freddie L. Goode (Richmond)
David L. Greenspan (Tysons)

2022 Fellows Induction sponsored by

The Fellows of Virginia Law Foundation

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David Grant Altizer (Tazewell) • Class of 2017
Robert B. Altizer (Tazewell) • Class of 1998
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Marni E. Byrum (Alexandria) • Class of 2012
Thomas E. Cabaniss (Richmond) • Class of 1989
Hon. Manuel A. Capsalis (Arlington) • Class of 2008
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F. Andrew Carroll, III (Alexandria) • Class of 2020
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Hon. H. Vincent Conway, Jr. (Newport News) • Class of 1994
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A Virtual Induction Ceremony
The Fellows of Virginia Law Foundation

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The Fellows of the Virginia Law Foundation are recognized as leaders in the profession, not just in their practices but in their communities.

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In April 2022, the Virginia Law Foundation opened the Bobzien-Gaither Education Center, a state-of-the-art teaching facility in suburban Richmond that provides Virginia CLE— the educational division of the Virginia Law Foundation. The BGEC presents live-on-site programs and high-quality, simultaneous, live-interactive webcasts and offers an inviting space for events and gatherings.

This Center is named in memory of two treasured members of our community: David Bobzien and Marcus Gaither. David was a past president of the Virginia State Bar and the Virginia Law Foundation and a longtime chair of the Foundation’s CLE Committee. Marcus, who joined the Foundation staff after his professional basketball career, distinguished himself in several director-level positions.

To honor their impact, the Foundation established the Friends of David and Marcus, a unique giving opportunity to support this Center and foster a space where many can learn and grow. If you or your firm would like to join this group of generous donors, still in its inaugural year, visit virginialawfoundation.org/bgec.

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The Adam Roush Scholarship Fund


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Remembering Adam Roush

During his time with the Virginia Law Foundation, Adam Roush made a difference in terms of how we view the world and the people we work with and serve.

His commitment to the well-being of his community, legal practitioners, and their loved ones was both evident and inspiring. At the time of his death, Adam was helping to launch the Virginia Law Foundation’s inaugural Wellness Institute, which will take place in 2023.

To honor his dedication and remember his spirit, the Virginia Law Foundation has established the Adam Roush Scholarship Fund, which guarantees free registration to those interested in attending the Wellness Institute and promotes equitable access to well-being programming. This scholarship represents another way Adam will continue to make a difference in the lives of many, and we are deeply moved by the outpouring of generosity to the scholarship in his name.

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If you would like to discuss making a donation, planned gift, or sponsorship in support of the Virginia Law Foundation, please contact Katie Ara, Senior Director of Development & Philanthropy, at 804.648.0112 or karata@vacle.org.