
PROMOTING
SERVICE TO
THE PUBLIC
AND THE
LEGAL
PROFESSION

2011 ANNUAL REPORT



Closing the Gap through Technology

JusticeServer

Connect. Counsel. Serve.

In April 2010, the Supreme Court of Virginia convened its first Pro Bono Summit to hear regional reports on pro bono service efforts from all the stakeholders. At this Summit, the Greater Richmond Bar Foundation reported on our Pro Bono Clearinghouse, which connects nonprofit clients to a virtual law-firm of volunteer attorneys.

In January 2011, based on the demonstrated success of our Pro Bono Clearinghouse model and our commitment to pro bono service delivery, Virginia Supreme Court Justice Donald W. Lemons and the VBA Pro Bono Task Force tapped the Greater Richmond Bar Foundation

as the organization to lead this region in the development of solutions to pro bono service barriers. Two weeks later, GRBF Board members and staff met with Capital One business analysts & IT directors to discuss the potential of a technology-based solution to address the inefficiencies of the pro bono case referral system. Over the next 8 months, as a member of the Core Team (including Capital One, CVLAS, LAJC and Firms In Service-Richmond), GRBF analyzed the current system of civil case intake, of case referrals to volunteer attorneys, and of reporting case dispositions. By stripping the pro bono process down to its nuts and bolts, the Core Team realized that legal aid organizations would need an improved case management system to work with any technology-driven system of match-

ing pro bono volunteers. From these sessions, we developed a list of high level business requirements and conducted a search for potential IT partners to develop this system ("JusticeServer").

Through Capital One's business connections, we discovered an existing technology platform (Salesforce.com) that could meet the basic requirements of JusticeServer. However, in order to serve as a secure, on-line case management system, this platform needed customization by a hired consultant. For the remainder of the year, we negotiated the scope of customization work, determined the budget required for funding this phase of the project, and created a prototype for use in the interim.

Expected Outcomes of JusticeServer Pilot:

- Serve thousands more low-income clients with critical civil needs
- Upgrade legal aid's case management system at an annual cost-savings
- Increase efficiency of pro bono case referrals and expand volunteer base in central VA
- Provide access to cases and reference materials from any internet connection
- Increase intake capacity and reduce backlog of cases at CVLAS & LAJC



2012 Update: After an initial grant by Capital One of \$25,000 at the campaign launch on January 12, 2012 (see photo), and generous gifts by Richmond's leading law firms, the JusticeServer build began in March 2012. In May 2012, GRBF received a \$50,000 grant from the Marty Morton Parsons Foundation. Design and testing have continued through June 2012. On July 5, 2012, JusticeServer will launch as the case management tool for CVLAS, LAJC and GRBF's Pro Bono Clearinghouse. The pro bono portal for volunteer attorneys will open officially in September 2012.

Pro Bono Promise



In recognition of the critical need for pro bono legal services in our community and our professional responsibility to deliver these services, the Foundation initiated a pro bono "call to action" to all law firms, legal departments & solo practitioners in the central Virginia area. The Foundation asks participants to make the Pro Bono Promise by agreeing to commit a "percentage of professional time"* each year to providing pro bono legal service and related volunteer activities and/or through a proportionate amount of financial support of such efforts by others.

By making the Pro Bono Promise, each participant agrees to encourage and facilitate the provision of pro bono legal services, to encourage and facilitate participation in volunteer activities designed to increase pro bono services, and to encourage financial support of the legal aid service providers who assist the disadvantaged in our community.

We applaud the following law firms & corporate law departments for making the Pro Bono Promise and encouraging pro bono service within their workplaces:

Dominion Resources Inc.
Goodman Allen & Filetti, P.L.L.C.
Hunton & Williams

McCandlish Holton, P.C.
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Our Mission

Expanding public access to the justice system in central Virginia by facilitating the delivery of pro bono legal services and service projects.

A Letter from Brian R. Marron, President

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

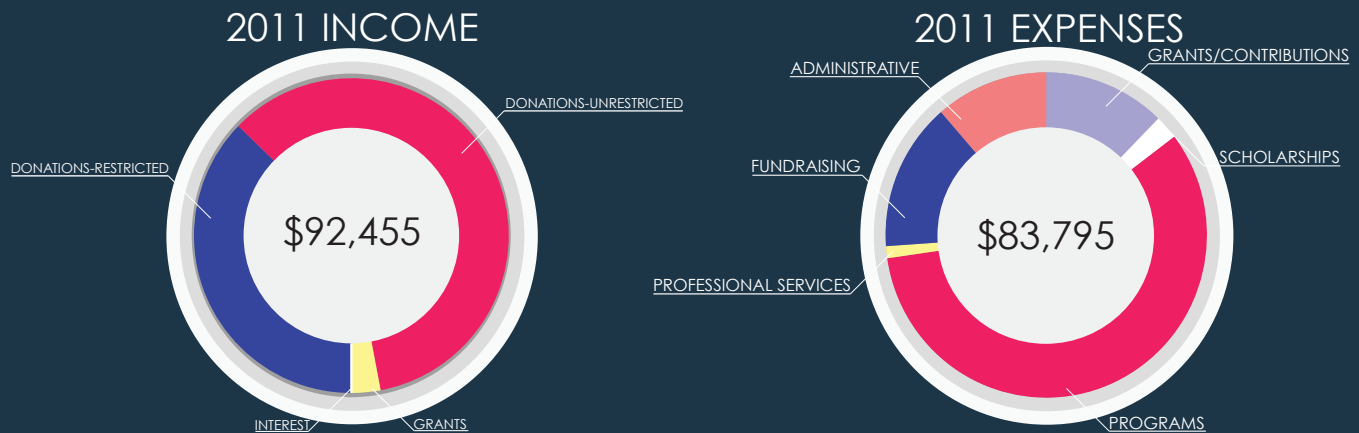
In a few short weeks, my term as president of the Greater Richmond Bar Foundation will end. It has been a happy coincidence for me to be able to lead the Foundation during this time of great change. With the dedication and vision of our Board and the tireless efforts of our staff and volunteers, we have been able to evolve into the organization we hoped we would be--the hub for pro bono legal services and outreach by the legal community in Central Virginia.

In partnership with Capital One, the Central Virginia Legal Aid and the Legal Aid Justice Center, the Foundation has helped to move the JusticeServer project closer to reality. By the time this report reaches you, these legal aid organizations will be shedding their antiquated intake and referral systems in favor of a cloud-based system that will provide instant access to the desktops of thousands of volunteer lawyers in our region. By this time next year, that same system will be in place for legal aid organizations throughout the Commonwealth and beyond. Amazing.

But, there are many challenges ahead. In these troubled economic times, our legal system requires us to engage, to assure that the system works for everyone. The Foundation must continue to seek out opportunities for the legal community to make a difference. As long as the Foundation continues to be an organization focused on creative solutions to problems, the legal community and the community at large will continue to look to the Foundation for leadership and direction.

In the coming year, we will focus on new issues and new programs. In partnership with the Virginia Bar Association and other organizations, we hope to develop new ways to meet the legal needs of our veterans. In time, it is my hope that we will also focus our efforts on the unmet legal needs of seniors and at-risk children.

I am proud to have been a part of this organization for the past ten years. Even with all that we have accomplished in that time, I believe our best years are ahead of us.



Y.O.U.T.H. Awards



Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli joined with former Virginia attorney generals Anthony F. Troy and Stephen D. Rosenthal to present four students with \$1000 savings bond at the 15th Annual Y.O.U.T.H Awards ceremony at Troutman Sanders on May 16, 2012. The awards were targeted specifically to students residing in at-risk Richmond neighborhoods served by the Attorney General's Gang Reduction and Intervention (GRIP) Program. The awards are presented annually by the Office of the Attorney General in conjunction the Greater Richmond Bar Foundation and Troutman Sanders.

Pro Bono Clearinghouse

Good Advice for Those Doing Good

Thanks to our 200 volunteer attorneys the Pro Bono Clearinghouse continues to give “Good Advice to Those Doing Good.” The Clearinghouse program, which is in its 11th year, connects experienced attorneys with Richmond area non-profit organizations with legal needs. Our volunteers have handled more than 650 matters valued at \$1.5 million since the program began in 2001. These organizations that are doing such great things in our community in such areas of homelessness, arts, health, and community development are then able to apply these savings to fulfilling their important missions.

Meet Some of our Volunteers:

J. C. Chenault, an associate on the Capital Finance and Real Estate team at Hunton & Williams, was connected with Heart Havens. This organization, which provides residential needs of adults with intellectual disabilities, needed legal help with a lease termination due to a fire. Here is what their executive director had to say about his work with them: “This is one attorney who has devoted time, being concerned about outcomes, had impressive follow through and continues to be a champion for Heart Havens!”

Margee Smither, Corporate Counsel for Performance Food Group, volunteered to work with Children Incorporated, an international organization assisting children of all races and creeds. They needed an attorney to review and advise them on their enrollment forms. They commented that “Things went great with Margee. She was quick, helpful and responsive. Huge savings to our organization.”

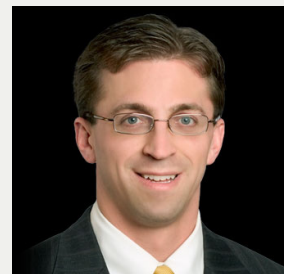
Charles Ayers, is a partner at Ayers & Stolte whose practice areas include corpo-

rate law, new business start-up, civil litigation, family law, wills, trusts and estate planning. During 2011 Mr. Ayers handled five matters through the Clearinghouse program, donating more than 25 hours of pro bono legal work.

Through the generosity of these and our many other volunteers, our program successfully handled 80 legal matters in 2011 alone, donating 540 hours valued at approximately \$175,000.

Pro Bono Clearinghouse Volunteer of the Year

Jamie A. Barber of Hunton & Williams was named the 2011 Pro Bono Clearinghouse Volunteer of the Year by the Foundation. Mr. Barber, who has handled 11 different matters for the program since 2006, provided more than 28 hours of pro bono work in 2011 for such nonprofits as St. John’s Child Development Center, A.C.O.R.N., Goochland Free Clinic, and One by One Initiative. Mr. Barber was honored on October 27th at our Pro Bono Clearinghouse Reception generously sponsored by Dominion and McGuireWoods.



Thanks to our 2011 Pro Bono Clearinghouse Volunteer Attorneys

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Program Partnerships

GRBF strives to fill gaps in pro bono service delivery. To achieve this goal, GRBF hosts periodic mini-summits to analyze and define the area of need, and then, in partnership with our community, we help design pro bono opportunities, recruit volunteers, facilitate trainings and promote the program through our bar association channels.

In 2011, GRBF collaborated with the following pro bono partners: Harry L. Carrico Center for Pro Bono Services, Capital One, Central Virginia Legal Aid Society (CVLAS), Commonwealth Attorney's Office, Dominion Resources, Legal Aid Justice Center (LAJC), Richmond Bar Association, Virginia Poverty Law Center (VPLC), VBA Veterans Hotline, WMACCA and Firms In Service – Richmond. In addition to the JusticeServer project, these partnerships resulted in the following pro bono opportunities and events:

- Unemployment Insurance Clinic launched at LAJC to assist with intake and representation of low income clients in administrative appeal hearings. Two trainings (CLE) were held in February & October. The results: 18 attorney volunteers trained, 33 clinic sessions held, 56 clients interviewed, and 36 clients represented.
- Partnered with WMACCA, the local corporate counsel association, in June to host an Ethics seminar, promoting corporate counsel rule change, Pro Bono Promise and the Pro Bono Clearinghouse opportunities for corporate counsel.
- Bankruptcy Mini-Summit held on August 30th to address the need for bankruptcy attorney volunteers to assist with CVLAS consumer bankruptcy cases and with certain pro se issues. The results: 10 attorneys volunteered, two program tracks identified, and law student opportunities developed for both needs.
- Partnered with UR Law's Carrico Center in the "Law Over Lunch Series" to deliver free ethics training to pro bono volunteers: one session on general pro bono issues and one

on specific issues related to nonprofit representation. Over 50 attorneys trained.

- Partnered in a strategic planning session facilitated by consultant Dr. Cahn of District of Columbia's "Time Dollar Youth Court" to assist with the Commonwealth Attorney's efforts to develop a city-wide program for diversion of juveniles with minor offenses to a peer review system.
- In October, partnered with VPLC & Williams Mullen to host Project 2025 "Elder Law Seminar on Guardianship," a free 6.0 CLE providing tools to enhance legal assistance services for older Virginians. Trained 10 attorneys to assist with guardianship cases.
- Promoted National Celebrate Pro Bono Week (October 24-31) which included a pro bono service opportunity, a pro bono awareness event, a pro bono recognition, and three pro bono trainings.
- Held a Veterans Mini-Summit in November to analyze existing programs, to identify service gaps in central Virginia and to plan for next steps.

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