



The Legal Star

Message from the President

Has the year 2020 been a wild ride or what? We started out in January with a grand vision of all our plans for RVPA this year, and then a couple of months in we suddenly had to step back and find other avenues for reaching our goals.

As paralegals, it is in our nature to adapt quickly to meet unexpected challenges, and our board members immediately went to work to implement alternative ways to meet our goals for this year. We were able to successfully continue hosting our monthly Lunch & Learns in a virtual format. I am pleased that so many of you have been able to join us in this virtual setting each month – we have enjoyed some excellent speakers so far, with presentations on interesting and timely topics.

I am hopeful that we will be able to resume in-person Lunch & Learns this fall. However, we are putting the health and safety of our members above all else, and will continue to monitor the pandemic situation in our area and adjust our plans accordingly for RVPA events scheduled for the remainder of 2020. I really miss seeing all of you together each month, and I am looking forward to the day when we can all get together again.

I'm sure most of you have heard about the Jaunt for Justice 5K that RVPA is planning for October to benefit Legal Aid Society of Roanoke Valley. I am very excited for this project and the opportunity to support Legal Aid Society. The staff at Legal Aid have been amazing to work with. In spite of the pandemic, I know that we

can make this a successful fundraiser for Legal Aid. I encourage all of you to register as a walker or runner for the 5K and support this great cause! You have the option of registering for the traditional 5K or a Virtual 5K. Even if COVID-19 forces us to cancel the traditional 5K, the Virtual 5K will go on as planned, so make sure you don't miss out!

This year has presented some challenges, for sure, but we will not let it slow RVPA down or hold us back. Our organization will continue to provide educational opportunities and support for our members and for our community. We are going to keep on keepin' on, knocking down all obstacles along the way!

As always, please feel free to reach out to any board member with questions, suggestions, or concerns. You can reach us at rvpa2018@gmail.com.

Stay safe and enjoy the rest of your summer!

Shannon Honaker - RVPA President

August Virtual Lunch & Learn



SPEAKER:
Tonia Drewery, Esquire

**RSPV By August
18th!**

Legal Aid Society of
Roanoke Valley

TOPIC:
What the Legal Aid Society
does for the Community

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DATE AND TIME
08/20/20
12:00pm-08/20/20
1:00pm

September Virtual Lunch & Learn



SPEAKER:
Amy Geddes, Esquire

OPN Law

TOPIC:
Social Security Law

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RSPV By
September 8th!

DATE AND TIME
09/10/20
12:00pm-09/10/20
1:00pm

October Virtual Lunch & Learn



SPEAKER:

Kai Memmer, Esquire

Glenn Robinson Cathey
Memmer & Skaff

TOPIC:

Don't Spoil Your Case:
Spoliation in Virginia

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**RSPV By
October 6th!**

DATE AND TIME

10/08/20
12:00pm-10/08/20
1:00pm

Get Your RVPA Swag Today!



Get some RVPA Swag today to show off your RVPA Pride!

[Start Shopping Now!](#)

2020 Session Highlights

"Passed bills are subject to review and veto by the Governor; thus, some of the bills listed as passed in this volume may be amended and some may not become law"

With this qualification in mind, here are a couple highlights from the 2020 Session, as Delegate Sam Rasoul spoke to us about in a recent RVPA Virtual Lunch and Learn.

Agriculture

HB 1552/SB 272 Tethering animals; adequate shelter and space.

Outdoor tethering no longer meets the requirement of adequate shelter during extreme weather if the animal is not safe from predators or well suited to tolerate the environment. This is a huge win for our non-human companions and those of us who get frustrated with others who do not care for their animals properly! Now we have something tangible to use to hold them accountable.

Commerce and Labor

HB 395/SB7 Minimum Wage.

This bill increases minimum wage from its current federally mandated level. Most of these increases are not required to go in to effect until January of 2021, but it's something to look forward to as the increases are scheduled to progress. This bill will be something to keep your eye on if it may affect you or someone you know to make sure the employer is following this new regulation. This is also a bill to keep your eye on as it is likely to be altered as time goes on.

Courts/Civil Law

HB 870 Statute of Limitations; Sexual Abuse.

"...for a cause of action accruing on or after July 1, 2020, every action for injury to a person resulting from sexual abuse shall be brought within 10 years after the cause of action accrues." This ups the Statute of Limitations regarding sexual abuse from the previous statute of two years. This is a huge win for victim's rights and those representing them. Paralegals with sexual assault cases need to be aware of this change to make sure clients are properly advised and represented.

Courts/Criminal Justice

HB 618/SB 179 Hate Crimes; penalty.

Adds gender, disability, gender identity, and sexual orientation to the categories of victims whose intentional selection for a hate crime results in higher criminal penalty for the offender. This bill also adds that these identifiers now qualify to bring a civil action to recover damages. However, it also eliminates the mandatory minimum terms of confinement for such hate crimes. This will affect those in practices of defense and prosecution of related crimes.

Elections

HB 1/SB111 Absentee voting; no excuse required.

The implementation of this bill will permit any registered voter to vote by absentee ballot in any election in which they are qualified to vote. This couldn't come at a better time for our current health situation in America, but there are plenty who oppose this form of voting for various reasons. Guess we will have to see how this works as a community and determine if it is best practice.

Transportation/Motor Vehicles

HB 874/SB160 Holding handheld personal communications devices while driving a motor vehicle.

Drivers are now prohibited from holding their cell phone while driving. Although this bill doesn't go into effect until January 1, 2021, it is helpful to know it's coming and that law enforcement will be on the look-out in the near future. The goal of this bill is safety of all those affected by motor

vehicles.

These are just some of the highlights from the 2020 Session. Check out the link below for more details. Remember, as a paralegal, one of our best attributes is knowledge. It not only makes you more effective, it protects you, your attorneys and your firm. We all know lawyers would be lost without us, so keep up with new laws and pending legislation that will impact your practice.

Brittany L. Johnson

[Read More Here](#)

Register Now!

Jaunt for Justice 5K
October 3rd, 2020

[Register Now!](#)



RVPA is hosting the first annual "Jaunt for Justice 5K" on Saturday, October 3rd, 2020. This is a 5K run/walk to benefit the Legal Aid Society of Roanoke Valley.

You have the option to register for either the traditional 5K run/walk, which will take place at the Tinker Creek Greenway at Fallon Park, or you can register for the Virtual 5K, choose your own 5K course, and submit your time online.

Registrants can switch their registration from the traditional 5K to the Virtual 5K anytime up to the day before the event.

Participants who register before September 20th are guaranteed an event T-shirt. Register today and help RVPA support the Legal Aid Society!

[Learn
More!](#)

3rd Annual Evening with the Judges

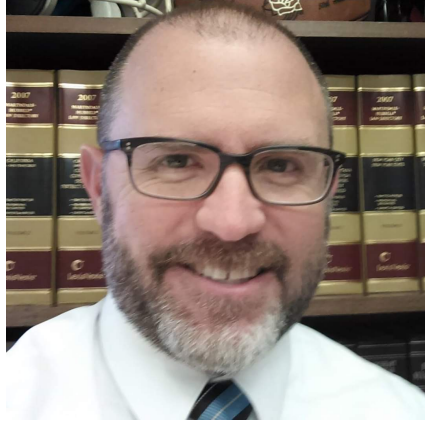
The Roanoke Valley Paralegal Association is proud to host the third annual "Evening with the Judges," featuring a panel of three local judges who will answer questions on a variety of topics, including their views on paralegal certification, what paralegals can do to best help their attorneys prepare for trial, their best and worst stories involving lawyers and paralegals in the courtroom, and more!

When: November 12th, 2020

Time: 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.



Honorable Elizabeth K. Dillon, Judge
United States District Judge for the
Western District of Virginia



Honorable Scott R. Geddes, Presiding Judge
Roanoke City & Roanoke County General District Court



Honorable Onzlee Ware, Judge
Roanoke City & Salem Circuit Court

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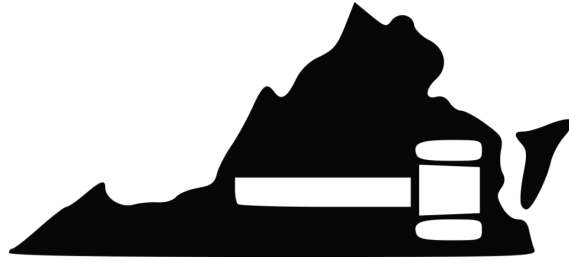
Get More Involved Today!

Are you looking for a way to get more involved?
Do you have ideas for future RVPA events?
Are you looking for a new way to network?

Join one of RVPA's Committees today to get started.
There is a perfect place for everybody!

[Get involved today!](#)

VAPA 12th Biennial Statewide Conference



October 5 - October 9

VAPA's Conference will be virtual this year. It will have some great sessions planned during lunch hour. More info coming soon.

[Learn
More!](#)

Weird Laws

Put away those x-ray glasses when buying new shoes!

In Virginia, it is a Class 3 misdemeanor to use an x-ray machine or similar device for fitting shoes.

In the 20th century, x-rays were starting to be used in medicine and most of the public was fascinated by the invention. Investors began looking for practical uses for x-ray machines in everyday life. One of the practical uses proposed was to let sellers view their customer's feet while trying on different shoes. These x-ray machines were small wooden boxes with an opening to insert a foot. The foot would then be x-rayed so that the salesperson could see where the foot ended and where the shoe began. This technology would have helped tell sellers if the shoe was a good fit.

Of course, the public did not yet know about the dangers of radiation. After research started to come out, it was discovered that x-ray radiation was linked to cancer. Virginia Code 18.2-321 was then passed in 1950, banning these x-ray machines.

Audrey Gray

Something to Brighten your Day

me doing legal research to find support but ending up back at the same case I first found



 **Roanoke Valley
Paralegal Association**

