

THE WBA NEWS

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November 2007

WBA AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE AND MERIT

David Otey, Sr., a partner in the firm of Jones, Blechman, Woltz & Kelly, was recently honored by the Williamsburg Bar Association. Mr. Otey, a member of the Bar Association for 34 years, received the Distinguished Service Award which is the highest honor bestowed by the Bar Association. The award recognized Mr. Otey's outstanding contributions to the legal community and the community at-large. Mr. Otey has lead many non-profit groups in the community, including the Williamsburg Bar Association, the Williamsburg United Way and the Kiwanis Club, and has served on the boards of many others, including the Williamsburg Area Chamber of Commerce and Williamsburg Hospice House. Mr. Otey has mentored many young lawyers, and his honesty, ethics and pro-

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Hampton will have three judicial vacancies next year. Judge Andrews is retiring effective January 1st, Judge Knight effective May 1st, and there is still the vacancy from last year in JDR Court. See attached information from the Hampton Bar.
- The Legal Clinics are still in need of additional attorneys, especially in the area of domestic relations. If you can assist with future clinics, please contact Kelli King. Thanks to Peter Mellette, Barrow Blackwell, Brian Gillette, Steve Rodgers, and of course, Kelli King, for their participation in the last clinic.

Upcoming Events

- **November 13**, 10:00 - 1:00 (Lunch included) at Carrabas Italian Grill, 2500 Richmond Road, Williamsburg, "Retirement Plans for Business Owners" (2 CLE hours), sponsored by Smith Barney. Contact Drena Brooks at 229-6111 for information or to RSVP by November 8th.
- **December 5**, from 12:00 - 2:00, at Kaufman & Canoles, Williamsburg office. "Intellectual property for the General Practitioner." Lunch provided.
- **December 7**—Holiday Party at the Wren Building, from 6-10 PM. You should have received an E-Vite about this event already.

professionalism provide an example to which all bar members should aspire.

Nate Green and Susan Tarley were also recognized by the Williamsburg Bar Association, both receiving the Award of Merit. The Award of Merit is presented to a member whose voluntary contributions have enhanced the image and esteem of the local bar association and the legal community. Mr. Green has been instrumental in advancing legal education through his work as State Coordinator for the National High School Mock Trial Program and his service as the attorney-coach for the Lafayette High School Mock Trial Team. Ms. Tarley was honored for her work on behalf of the Williamsburg Bar Association and her part in establishing the Williamsburg Legal Outreach Clinic which provides pro bono services to residents who are unable to afford legal services.

The WBA would like to commend and congratulate all three on their well-deserved awards.

RUSSIAN LAWYERS VISIT WILLIAMSBURG

By Peter M. Mellette, Esq., Mellette PC

The Williamsburg Bar took on an international flavor with the visit of three Russian attorneys, an interpreter and a guide. The visit was part of the Open World Program sponsored by the Library of Congress that has become an annual event. The Open World Program has brought Russian lawyers for the last three years to Williamsburg to visit and learn more about our legal system and democratic processes. The attorneys came from varying backgrounds. Andrey Vasilyevich Kolesnikov is a prosecutor in Eastern Russia, Sergey Viktorovich Vedyashkin is an environmental law professor at a law school located in Northern Russia, and Sergey Yevgenyevich Svechnikov is in private practice with a corporate law and bankruptcy practice in Southern Russia. Each brought different perspectives and appreciated the opportunity to see how the American legal and justice system works.

Mellette PC hosted a reception for the Russian lawyers and members of the Williamsburg Bar Association on Thursday, November 1. The reception provided an opportunity for informal discussion of law practices between representatives of the Williamsburg Bar and the three Russian attorneys. There was certainly some surprise on the part of the Russians and Americans at the similarities between our civil and criminal systems. The group of three Russian lawyers and the interpreter and guide attended a meeting of the Williamsburg Rotary that evening. A photograph of the attorneys with Rotary members is shown below.



Pictured, left to right: Igor Evseev, interpreter; Delegate Sergey Viktorovich Vedyashkin; Delegate Sergey Yevgenyevich Svechnikov; Delegate Andrey Vasilyevich Kolesnikov; Yuriy Vatskoviskiy, Facilitator with the Open World Program; Peter Mellette.