



Virginia State Bar Press Release

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Virginia State Bar Honors Bar Association of the Year

The Virginia State Bar has named The Prince William County Bar Association as the recipient of its Bar Association of the Year Award.

The award, sponsored by the VSB Conference of Local Bar Associations, recognizes lasting and exemplary contributions to the legal community and the community at large in Virginia. The award also recognizes the dedication of local and statewide bar associations and emphasizes the importance of close cooperation between the Virginia State Bar and bar leaders.

The Prince William County Bar Association has been providing extensive services to its members and the community for decades. It has had a listserv since 2007 and has produced an annual directory since 2003. The association has published its monthly newsletter for sixteen years. In the area of education, the association hosted fifteen CLEs attended by 484 bar members last year alone. It also offers an extensive mentoring program.

The association sponsors numerous law-related community outreach activities including its “So You’re 18” program, which began in 1999. It also sponsors the “Character Counts! Essay Contest” for middle school students; the “Court Tours/Mock Trial” program; and supports the National Young Readers Day each fall. The association sponsors a Senior Citizen Project with the local Area Agency on Aging in celebration of Law Day and has started the Library Learning Series.

Charitable works include “Breakfasts at S.E.R.V.E.,” a non-profit organization that provides a number of services to at-risk families including temporary shelter and meals. It also provides books for residents in emergency shelters. The largest need-based activity it sponsors is the “Beat the Odds” program, which has been held since 2001. The program, based on the National Children’s Defense Fund model, offers youth who have come in contact with the juvenile justice system because of abuse, neglect, or truancy recognition for achieving academic and social progress as they strive to turn their lives around.

The Association of the Year Award will be presented on June 19 during the Virginia State Bar Annual Meeting in Virginia Beach.