

# VADA

VADA Annual Meeting 2020

**Sharpen Your Litigation Focus**

October 14-15 | The Homestead & Via Webcast



## **DRAFT AGENDA**

*Requesting 5.50 CLE HRS (1.0 ETHICS)*

***IN-PERSON AND WEBCAST OPTIONS AVAILABLE***

### **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14**

- 10:00 AM     **Executive Committee Meeting, Empire Room**
- 1:00 PM     **Board of Director's Meeting, Empire Room**
- 6:00 PM     **President's Welcome Reception, Grand Ballroom Foyer**
- 6:30 PM     **Webcast Virtual Reception, Sponsored by Metadata Forensics**
- 7:30 PM     **Dinner on Your Own**
- 9:30 PM     **VADA "Late Night", Georgian/Commonwealth**

### **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15**

- 7:45 AM     **Registration & Breakfast Opens, Grand Ballroom Foyer**
- 7:45 AM     **Past Presidents' Breakfast, Chesapeake**
- 8:25 AM     **Welcome & Announcements, Grand Ballroom West**
- 8:30 – 9:30 AM     **Legal Writing in the Digital Age: How to Write a Winning Brief, 1.0 HR**  
Erin Ashwell, Office of the Attorney General of Virginia  
Hon. David B. Carson, Roanoke City Circuit Court  
Hon. Stephen R. McCullough, Supreme Court of Virginia  
Moderator: Jay O'Keeffe, Johnson, Rosen & O'Keeffe

Justice Stephen R. McCullough of the Supreme Court of Virginia, Circuit Judge David B. Carson of the Twenty-Third Judicial Circuit, and Erin B. Ashwell, Chief Deputy Attorney General for the Commonwealth of Virginia will share their thoughts on effective legal writing at all stages of litigation. The panelists' varied backgrounds and the session's focus on practical advice should make for a useful discussion. Jay O'Keeffe will moderate.

9:30 – 10:15 AM

**Legislative Update, .75 HR**

Sam Bernier, Frith Anderson + Peake  
Stephen Marshal, Two Rivers Law Group  
Alexander Macaulay, Macaulay Jamerson  
Lindsay Sessa, Macaulay Jamerson

This panel will get you updated on the bills impacting our members and their clients which become law July 1, 2020. Also, this will inform you of bills which were tabled at the last session and will likely return during the 2021 session. This will also include information on the Special Session bills introduced in response to COVID-19.

10:15 – 10:30 AM

**Networking Break/Sponsor Visits**

10:30 – 11:15 AM

**Defending COVID-19 Personal Injury Claims, .75 HR**

Stewart Pollock, Moran Reeves & Conn

COVID-19 is already causing a wave of personal injury lawsuits by those who allegedly contracted the virus as a result of another's tortious conduct. In this presentation, Stewart Pollock will discuss potential COVID-19 personal injury claims and claimants, theories of liability, and novel defenses.

11:15 – 12:15 PM

**The Power of Compassion: Empathy, Sympathy & Kindness From a Defense Perspective, 1.0 HR**

John W. Bell, Johnson & Bell (Courtesy DRI)

Imagine that you are preparing a case for trial. The plaintiff has sustained catastrophic injuries and to make matters worse the evidence is aggravating and could inflame the jury. It is a case of liability for your client. It is case that should be settled and you have substantial eight figure authority to try and resolve it. Unfortunately, plaintiff's counsel has just rejected your high seven figure structured offer and informed you that plaintiff does NOT want to settle. He wants to try his winners.

What strategies can you employ to prevent an aggravated "runaway" verdict that could put your client out of business? Controlling the jurors' emotions is crucial in preventing an excessive verdict. This presentation will describe various approaches to achieving your goal of capping your client's exposure to a "fair & reasonable" verdict. There is power in Compassion, Sympathy, Empathy & Kindness. Taking the "Moral High Ground" can be very effective in controlling jurors' emotions.

12:15 PM

**Awards Luncheon, Sponsored by The McCammon Group, Grand Ballroom West**

1:45 – 2:00 PM

**Networking Break/Sponsor Visits**

2:00 – 3:00 PM      **Perfect Persuasion: Effective Oral Advocacy, 1.0 HR**  
Erin Ashwell, Office of the Virginia Attorney General  
Hon. S. Bernard Goodwyn, Supreme Court of Virginia  
Hon. Ricardo Rigual, Spotsylvania Circuit Court  
Hon. Michael F. Urbanski, U.S. District Court for the Western District

This panel will focus on oral advocacy in both the trial and appellate courts. A panel comprised of a seasoned appellate attorney, a federal judge, a state circuit court judge and a Supreme Court of Virginia Justice will share insight on properly framing and arguing a case in any court.

3:00 – 4:00      **Ethics and Professionalism in the Heat of Battle: Taming a Tricky Adversary, 1.0 HR ETHICS**  
Hon. Randall G. Johnson, Jr., Henrico Circuit Court  
Paul Kuhnel, Lewis Brisbois  
Hon. Deborah Welsh, Loudoun County General District Court

At some point or another, we have all encountered a “tricky” adversary – an opposing attorney who is non-responsive, uncooperative, or even hostile. This panel of judges from both the general district court and circuit court, as well as a seasoned trial attorney, will share their insights and advice on dealing with difficult adversaries while maintaining civility, professionalism, and respect.

4:00-6:00 PM      **FREE TIME** - *The resort offers many activities. Visit the Homestead webpage for additional information. Fees may apply.*

6:00 PM      **NETWORKING RECEPTION, Sponsored by MDD** (*Business Casual*), Casino Lawn

7:30 PM      **Dinner on own**

9:30 PM      **VADA “Late Night”, Georgian/Commonwealth**