

Since last month some very interesting, encouraging and exciting things have occurred.

Phil Hirschkop's discussion about the integration of our bar association and our intention to present additional historical discussions and articles created a lot of positive reactions. For those of you who missed that dinner meeting, Phil's article appears on page – of this addition of the *Oyez*. I was privileged to have been invited to lunch with retired Judges Robert Colby and Daniel O'Flaherty where I was treated to an anecdotal history of the Bar Association and the lawyers of Alexandria from the 1940's to present. We hope to recreated it and presented it at a meeting or article of both sometime this the spring. If anyone has the energy to help work on this project of has stories or insights to add, please call Charles Unger (703-548-1105) or me (703-684-8000).

Ron Ray, Charles Unger and I met with the leaders and executive directors of the Bar Associations of Arlington, Fairfax and Prince William Counties. We discussed our common problems, how we are serving our members and the community and how we can work together in the future. It was an enjoyable and fruitful meeting. Each association will send our Courts' motions days, CLE programs and social events to the Fairfax Bar office and they will prepare a common calendar that we will publish in future *Oyez*. We are planning joint social events and at least one joint CLE. One of the common problems that we are going to work together on is under representation of minorities in our associations. During this discussion Peter DePaolis, President of the Fairfax Bar Association, informed us about a meeting of Attorneys that Federal Judge Gerald Lee has helped organize.

The group calls itself NOVALAW and its purpose is to create a venue for members of the specialty bar associations that serve the minority attorneys and the mainstream bar association to network. Ron Ray and I attended a meeting of this group at the Federal courthouse. The specialty bar associations that were represented at the meeting included the Northern Virginia Black Attorneys Association, the Asian American Bar Association, the Virginia Black Women's Bar Association and the Virginia Women Attorney's Association. There will be better communications between our associations, jointly sponsored social events and programs, and an opportunity and forum for greater interactions between our collective members within the context of these organized bars.

Finally, at our November dinner meeting we didn't have a speaker but West Publishing Group sponsored the dinner and gave a five-minute presentation of their new annotated Code of Virginia. We welcomed our new members (we have passed the 40 mark) which I am pleased to report included a few members of the United States Attorney's Office. By a show of hands approximately twenty percent of those in attendance indicated that this is the first year that they have attended one of our functions. This is a very exciting turning point for our association. I invite and encourage our new and young members to become as active as they can in our Association and its committees and encourage their friends to join us.

I am looking forward to seeing you at the Bench Bar meeting at the Courthouse on December 13th at 5:00 PM.