

Harrisonburg Attorneys Honored for Pro Bono Work

At the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Bar Association's recent Professionalism Seminar held October 12, 2005, three Harrisonburg attorneys or law firms were honored for their significant *pro bono publico* activities over the previous year. The Pro Bono Award recipients were: R. Darren Bostic, Esq. of Bostic & Bostic, PC; Dawn Wine Ruple, Esq.; and the law firm of Roger Ritchie & Partners, LLC. The awards were announced by Janet Ikenberry, BRLS Referral Coordinator, and were presented by Blue Ridge Legal Services President, Dana J. Cornett, Esq., are conferred each year upon individual members of the bar who have performed particularly noteworthy pro bono work.



Pictured above is BRLS Referral Coordinator Janet Ikenberry announcing the awards.



Pictured here at a recent Harrisonburg-Rockingham Bar Association Professionalism Seminar, from left to right, are Pro Bono Award recipients Roger Ritchie, Dawn Ruple, and Darren Bostic, along with Blue Ridge Legal Services President, Dana J. Cornett.

The Pro Bono Awards are a longstanding part of the bar association's annual Professionalism Seminar. Since 1982, the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Bar Association has collaborated with Blue Ridge Legal Services, the area's non-profit legal aid society and a United Way partner agency, in operating a Pro Bono Referral Program. Under this program, local low-income residents with civil legal problems are screened by Blue Ridge Legal Services and referred to members of the bar, who handle the cases without charge, or "pro bono." As a result of this program, hundreds of local low-income residents have received free legal assistance in cases critically important to them representing hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of donated services.

The Harrisonburg-Rockingham Bar Association has received both statewide and national acclaim for its pro bono activities, including the national Legal Services Corporation's Rural Pro Bono Attorney of the Year Award in 1993; the American Bar Association's prestigious Harrison Tweed Award in 1995; and the Virginia State Bar's Lewis Powell Pro Bono Award in 1998.

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