



2022 Regional Seminar / Friday, June 24

Wytheville Community Center | Country Inn & Suites, Wytheville

Program with Session Descriptions

8:30 a.m. | Registration Check-In and Continental Breakfast

9 – 10:30 a.m. | Firearms: New authority for local governments (1.5 CLE)

Moderator: Lucy Phillips, County Attorney, County of Washington

Speakers:

Kathleen Dooley, City Attorney, City of Fredericksburg

Lisa Robertson, City Attorney, City of Charlottesville

Jan Proctor, County Attorney, County of Accomack

The 2020 Virginia General Assembly granted localities authority to prohibit the possession of firearms in buildings used for governmental purposes, public parks, public recreation and community centers, and public streets being used for permitted events. What are the contours of this new authority, and how do those contours conform to – or not – the individual rights protected by the First and Second Amendments? The United States Supreme Court will contribute to the understanding of the Second Amendment this spring, when it is expected to issue its decision in the New York Rifle & Pistol Association case. Will that decision shed light on the “sensitive places” doctrine? The panel will brief attendees on the current state of this new Dillon’s Rule authority.

10:30 – 10:45 a.m. | Break

10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. | Practical Tips for Representing Small Localities (1.5 CLE)

Moderator: N. Reid Broughton, Attorney, Sands Anderson PC

Speakers:

Lawrence S. Spencer, Town Attorney, Town of Blacksburg

Stephanie Davis, Ph.D., Collegiate Assistant Professor and Program Director, Virginia Tech Graduate Certificate in Local Government Management

Tara A. McGee, County Attorney, County of Goochland

Representing small localities presents a unique set of challenges, as the attorney not only needs to know the legal requirements for passing a budget, but may also be providing assistance to staff as to how to properly manage the budget and finances. A small locality’s attorney has to handle a broad range of matters, from the small ones like preparing a valid employment separation agreement, as well as the big picture issues such as the requirement to have a classification and compensation system. And all of this has to be done with less staff and fewer resources than larger localities have. This panel will provide helpful tips, examples, and information for new, as well as seasoned, attorneys who represent smaller localities.

12:15 – 12:45 p.m. | Lunch

12:45 – 2:15 p.m. | Case Law/Legislative Update: 2022 Special Session and 2023 Session Preview (1.5 CLE)

Moderator: Kelley Kemp, Assistant County Attorney, County of Powhatan

Speakers:

Michelle Gowdy, Executive Director, Virginia Municipal League

Jonathan Puvak, Partner, Gentry Locke

Speakers will update on recent case law impacting local governments. They will also summarize the 2022 Virginia General Assembly Session focusing on updates to bills addressed in the special session and failed bills that may return next year that are of specific interest to localities.

2:15 – 2:30 p.m. | Break

2:30 – 4:30 p.m. | Ethics: The Intersection of Stress, Ethics, and Wellness (2.0 Ethics CLE)

Moderator: Meredith Harlow Jacobi, Assistant City Attorney, City of Chesapeake

Speaker:

Janet P. Van Cuyk, MSW, JD, Assistant Director, Virginia Judges and Lawyers Assistance Program

This session will focus on challenges (large and small) that lawyers and other legal professionals face in a post-COVID world, such as managing the return to office and new work/client expectations, managing long-haul COVID health, and mental health issues. It will review the impact of chronic stress on physical mental health; how the stress-feedback cycle and other occupational risks in law may impact your professional competency and ethical requirements; and ways to prevent and to recognize early warning signs of distress or burnout in yourself and others. This session will be a practical, dialogue-oriented discussion with audience questions encouraged.

4:30 p.m. | Adjourn

If you have questions regarding the seminar, need special services, facilities or dietary considerations (vegetarian or otherwise), contact **Amy Sales** at amy.sales@easterassociates.com.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ATTORNEYS OF VIRGINIA | 9 South 12th Street, 2nd Floor, Richmond, Virginia 23219 | 804-643-4433

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