

Alex Gulotta Receives Charles Dorsey Award

On November 14, the National Legal Aid and Defender Association awarded Alex Gulotta, executive director of the Legal Aid Justice Center, with the Charles Dorsey Award at their National Conference in Seattle. He was recognized for his work on behalf of low-income Virginians.

The award is given biennially to an individual who has provided “extraordinary and dedicated service to the equal justice community and to organizations that promote expanding and improving access to justice for low-income people.”

“Alex’s reputation as a determined, ethical, spirited, optimistic, creative and devoted equal justice advocate is nationally acknowledged by his peers and colleagues,” said Clint Lyons, NLADA president and CEO. “He is an advocate for all advocates, one that has refused the status quo and championed the effort to implement a model of dual legal aid providers to better serve low-income Americans in need of competent legal representation.”

As the executive director of the Legal Aid Justice Center in Charlottesville, Gulotta earned a national reputation for his tenacity and creativity in overcoming the severe restrictions put on federally funded legal aid programs, in 1996, by the U.S. Congress.

The Legal Aid Justice Center offers free civil legal services to low-income families throughout Central Virginia and to low wage immigrant workers statewide, while also engaging in systematic legal advocacy for all low-income Virginians. The Legal Aid Justice Center receives funding from numerous funding sources, including individuals, local and state governments, The Virginia Law Foundation and the University of Virginia School of Law.

In addition to the LAJC’s general civil advocacy work, Gulotta is also responsible for the creation and preservation of two innovative new programs for special populations: the Virginia Justice Center for Farm and Immigrant Workers program;



and the JustChildren program, concerned with addressing the unmet legal needs of children in the state’s education, foster care and juvenile justice systems.

Old Dominion Bar Association Hosts Third Annual Dinner and Awards Scholarships

On Friday, October 3, 2003, the Richmond Chapter of the Old Dominion Bar Association, in collaboration with the Greater Richmond Bar Foundation, hosted the third annual Oliver W. Hill/Samuel W. Tucker Scholarship Dinner at the Omni Richmond Hotel.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Benjamin L. Hooks, former executive director of the NAACP. Oliver W. Hill was also in attendance—as he has been since the annual dinner’s inception in 2000.

During the program, the ODBA awarded scholarships to nine students currently attending Virginia-area law schools and Howard University.



Scholarship winners were (l-r): Douglas Smith, University of Richmond; Geneva Perry, the College of William & Mary; Charlita Awosika, Regent University; Gregory Richardson, Regent University; Henry Thompson (face covered), Howard University; Dontae Bugg, University of Richmond; Antoinette Morgan, University of Richmond; R. Darnell Griffin (front), University of Richmond; Gigi Parris (not pictured), University of Virginia.