

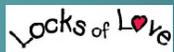
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e-mailing us at
Janelle@RohrstaffLaw.com.



Sandra's grandchildren twins
are 2½ years old

Everyday Heroes

Last August, when Hurricane Isaac was threatening landfall in Gulf Coast states, a friend of mine volunteered to go to Florida/Alabama as part of the Red Cross Disaster Relief Operation. He posted his thoughts on Facebook and I was moved by his writings that gave a peek into his thoughts and details of his experiences. He talked about being nervous as he started his journey, the chaos of getting hundreds of volunteers from all over the US processed and assigned to tasks; the day-to-day (or, more often, hour-by-hour) uncertainty of what he would be doing as the communities' needs changed.

I've posted more details about his Red Cross volunteer experience on my website at www.rohrstafflaw.com/library/Everyday_Heroes.pdf



People who rush to help with victims of hurricanes give us plenty of examples of heroes. But there are plenty of heroes in our midst every day who lend helping hands to those who need them. I know they have no thoughts about being recognized for their good works, but I want to recognize our local heroes by spotlighting one in each of our newsletters.

A hero is someone who goes above and beyond. She is someone to look up to, someone to go to, someone to ask for advice. He is the person who risks his own health and safety to give you yours. He's also the teacher who spends extra time with the child who needs it, the UPS driver or mail deliverer who leaves the package where the elderly person can

easily pick it up, the neighbor who always arrives at the door of the person who just got home from the hospital, the church member who drives the ailing man to his many

To me, he was an example of a real hero. (I hope he doesn't read this article, because he would be insulted that I connect him to that word.) Since then, of course, there have been many other examples of everyday heroes, most recently with the arrival of Hurricane Sandy here on the east coast. I thought of my friend and all the others who volunteer their time by stepping out of their own lives to take care of others.

doctor appointments.

We would like to tell stories of our local heroes, and we need your help. Please nominate someone you consider to be a hero and, if selected, we will tell the story and make a donation to his/her favorite charity. Go to RohrstaffHeroes.com and fill out the form to make your nomination.

Welcome Raymond C. Shank, Esquire!

We're happy to welcome Ray Shank as our new associate. Ray has been practicing for about five years, mostly representing individuals in professional malpractice litigation.

So far, he is holding up quite nicely as the only guy in the office.

The "Accidental" Lawyer

I never expected to be a lawyer. I do not come from a family of lawyers, and I never studied pre-law as an undergrad. Before law school, my impression of lawyers was based on what I'd seen in movies. If I had spent time in the presence of lawyers, I might have thought that something must have gone terribly wrong. So, choosing a profession is a strange thing to end up doing by chance, but that is a fair description of how I ended up being a lawyer.



For that matter, "by chance" is a fair description of how I ended up living and working in Northern Virginia. By the time I moved here in 2000, I had lived in eight states and two countries thanks to my father's career in the Army. From Germany to Mississippi to Colorado to Hawaii and several stops in between, the only constant was change. The only expectation was something unexpected. And, to be completely honest, I am thankful for it. It taught me to adapt to change and to accept that conditions, good or bad, are temporary. Most of all, it taught me that people, and the experiences they go through, are pretty much the same regardless of where they start out.

Back to my original point: accidentally becoming the lawyer. I finished my undergrad degree in journalism and political science in the fall of 2000 by working as an intern at a think-tank in DC. My job was essentially to watch and analyze election coverage on the evening news. The internship turned into a permanent position at another think-tank and three

Law is a "helping" profession.

years later I came to a startling realization: they are not kidding when they call them non-profits. I needed a change, and law school simply made sense as the next stop along the way. Don't ask me how, but somehow watching news coverage of politicians for three years did not discourage me.

Regardless of how I got here, I am very thankful to have been an attorney for the past five years. I first heard in law school that law is a "helping" profession, and again and again that has proven to be true. As an attorney, I hear stories about

people's lives that most would not share with strangers. For many clients, the file on my desk represents the worst (or, at least, most stressful) thing going on in their life at that moment. The reason they are willing to share this part of their life with me is because they trust that I can help. While every case does not end up perfectly, helping someone get through the complicated process of being involved in a lawsuit is still rewarding.

I have also learned that while people are very much alike, there are always new and interesting challenges in every case, either because of the details of what happened or how the individual in front of me is dealing with it. Every case is starting over. Every case is unique in some aspect. Most importantly, every case is an opportunity to fix something that has gone wrong.

All of the lawyer jokes aside, law is not a bad place to end up.

Thanks For Your Referrals!

We always appreciate people who refer matters to us. This month, we thank: Mark Cummings (attorney), Thomas Curcio (attorney), Elizabeth Gray (attorney), Kathleen Holmes (attorney), Chidi James (attorney), Laura Johnston (attorney), Karla Jones, Leila Kilgore (attorney), Barbara Williams (attorney), and David Wolf (attorney).

These cases involved issues of injury from automobile negligence, child injury, wrongful death, nursing home negligence and medical malpractice.



Locks of Love

Janelle's Corner

In the Spring of 2010, my sister-in-law (and mother of the adorable twins whose photos are featured in every issue of The Rohrstaff Reader), Ang and I donated our hair to Locks of Love. We actually donated our hair within weeks of each other and didn't know the other was doing it until my brother/her husband (Mike) told us.



diagnosis. Most of the children helped by Locks of Love have lost their hair due to a medical condition called alopecia areata, which has no known cause or cure. The prostheses help to restore their self-esteem and their confidence, enabling them to face the world and their peers.

This Summer/Fall, we both had finally grown our hair out long enough to donate at least 10 inches again. We plan to continue to donate our hair until we go all gray.



Go to their website for more information:
LocksOfLove.org

Locks of Love is a public non-profit organization that provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children in the United States and Canada under age 21 suffering from long-term medical hair loss from any

Here's Ang's story on this year's donation:



Mike and I planned a day when he was available, so that the kids could come along. I wanted them to see it all happen so that it wasn't surprising, or worse, unsettling, to them. Malynn and Jack sat with Daddy in the chair next to me, watching with earnest and taking it all in stride. While the stylist, Sammie, is cutting my hair, her mom walked in. Her mom was clearly just stopping in to say "hi" and maybe doing an extra check-in since it was the day the hurricane was rolling into the area. Sammie said, "Mom, she's donating to Locks of Love." Once she got close enough for me to see her in the mirror, I immediately noticed her very short hair. A couple gals in the shop had complimented it on her way in, and I had heard her replying, "It just got long enough again since the chemo." I believe it. Not only had I chosen a stylist whose mother had from cancer chemo treatment, but her mom just happened to was there, too! I choked up a bit her, too. (It really haircut that she leaned in just a tad you for what you I choked up a bit

almost couldn't lost her hair stop by while I I complimented was a great short wore well.) She and said, "Thank you for what you are doing." and hope I managed to say, "You're welcome." Then she headed out as quickly as she had come in, and Sammie said, "She knows her new short hair is looking good now, but she still longs for long hair like yours." I hope that my donation helps one person somewhere, who is fighting for recovery, get one sense of normalcy a little faster.

- Ang Blanchette

Thank you for your generous hair donation! Your selfless act of kindness will benefit a Locks of Love recipient and change their life for the better. Most of our recipients suffer from an autoimmune disease called alopecia areata, which has no known cause or cure. Other recipients are cancer survivors, victims of trauma such as burns and rare dermatological conditions that result in permanent hair loss. Your donation of hair will help return smiles to the many varied faces of our children. On behalf of those children, their families and the Board of Directors,

THANK YOU - YOU MADE A DIFFERENCE!!

Madonna Coffman

Madonna Coffman
President



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Sandra & Janelle
Mother & Daughter
Working to Help Other Families



Janelle joined The Reston Chorale last year and is having a blast. Go to RestonChorale.org to see their concert schedule.

What Others Are Saying About Us

I'm doing what I believe to be the right thing to help someone. Anytime I have an opportunity to refer a case that I believe may have some merit, I will always think of you. People need someone who is not just competent but also kind, compassionate and warm-hearted to represent them as they navigate the process of obtaining justice; and I truly believe that's you and that's what I tell them.

- Karla J., Woodbridge

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Baked Brie

Several years ago, I discovered the delight of BAKED BRIE. Since then, I've enjoyed it again and again, often wrapped in puff pastry dough and stuffed with things like cranberry, apricot or raspberry jam or dried cherries. Savory stuffings inside the puff pastry dough are also popular. The first time I made it, I topped the brie with chopped pecans and sugar and baked it without the dough and served it with sliced apples. This is that recipe (Paula Deen's); simple and simply delicious. It's wonderful and elegant for holiday parties.

- 1/4 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/4 cup chopped macadamia nuts or pecans
- 1 tablespoon brandy
- 1 (14-ounce) round brie
- Apple wedges, for serving
- Pear wedges, for serving
- 2 to 3 tablespoons lemon juice
- Crackers, for serving



In a small bowl stir together the sugar, nuts, and brandy. Cover and chill for at least 24 hours or up to 1 week.

Preheat oven to 500 degrees F.

Place the brie on an ovenproof platter or pie plate. Bake for 4 or 5 minutes or until the brie is slightly softened. Spread the sugar mixture in an even layer on top of the warm brie and bake for 2 to 3 minutes longer, or until the sugar melts. Brush the fruit wedges with lemon juice and arrange them around one side of the brie. Place crackers around the other side.