

YLD Members Raise Thousands to Find Cure for Cystic Fibrosis

By Callie Guy & Rachel Adams

On June 8, 2023, over 500 people gathered at the Science Museum of Virginia in Richmond to celebrate and recognize a group of outstanding young professionals and to raise money for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation at the Foundation's tenth annual Brewer's Ball and celebration of Richmond's Finest. Of the twenty-one "Richmond's Finest" honorees, two are members of the Virginia Bar Association Young Lawyers Division – Peter Askin of Thompson McMullan and Quinn Novak of Florance Gordon Brown.

Embodying the YLD commitment to public service and collegiality, Askin and Novak each raised thousands of dollars for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (\$5,000 for Askin and nearly \$4,000 for Novak) and participated in a months-long program of CF education, awareness-building, and networking with other



Richmond 2023 Brewer's Ball.

Courtesy: Murphy Kerner

young professionals in the Richmond area.

WHAT IS CYSTIC FIBROSIS?

Cystic Fibrosis is a progressive, genetic disease that affects essential systems and

organs throughout the body, including the lungs, pancreas, and gastrointestinal tract.¹ Common problems for people with cystic fibrosis include chronic lung infections, inflammation and respiratory failure, as well as malnutrition and liver disease.² Approximately 40,000 people in the United States are living with cystic fibrosis.³

While there is no cure for cystic fibrosis, there are a number of effective treatments available for most people living with the disease.⁴ Significant recent breakthroughs include the development of a drug called Trikafta, which works on a defective protein receptor, and is an effective treatment for some, but not all, cases of cystic fibrosis.⁵

WHAT IS THE CYSTIC FIBROSIS FOUNDATION?

Since its founding in 1955, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation has invested in developing new treatments for cystic fibrosis, helping people with cystic fibrosis to access necessary care, and supporting them and their families through an often difficult, scary, and expensive process.⁶

RICHMOND'S FINEST & BREWER'S BALL 2023

Richmond's Finest is part of a statewide campaign for the Virginia chapter of the



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Virginia Chapter Young Professionals Leadership Council. Callie has received Virginia Business magazine's Legal Elite recognition in the Real Estate/Land Use (2022) and Young Lawyer (2020-2021) categories.

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with this event, the YLD hosts the Region IV competition round, the winners from which move on to compete nationally. The YLD is always looking for attorneys to serve as appellate judges for the competition. If you are interested in serving as a judge, please let me know.

- **Fall Meeting.** The YLD is excited to travel to Lynchburg, Virginia for

a joint meeting with the Board of Governors for its Fall Meeting. The meeting will be held at The Virginian Hotel on October 27-29, 2023. The meeting promises to include multiple CLEs and social activities appropriate for the whole family. Please mark your calendars—I hope to see you there.

- **Other Leadership opportunities.** We have open leadership roles on the Law School Councils for Appalachian, Liberty, Regent, and William & Mary, the Membership Committee, the Pro Bono Committee, and a number of open Regional Social Chair roles. Please contact me if you are interested in serving in any of those roles. ■

Opportunities to Get Involved

Are you looking for an opportunity to get involved with the VBA Young Lawyers Division? You can read about the YLD's multiple projects and committees at: vba.org/yldactivities. Just reach out to the project or committee chair to learn more. In addition, the YLD always welcomes ideas for new projects. Just reach out to anyone on the YLD Executive Board to share your proposal: vba.org/yld.

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Cystic Fibrosis Foundation that includes a similar event and campaign in the Charlottesville area. The Foundation solicits nominations for outstanding young professionals who demonstrate leadership in their industries and communities, embody a commitment to public service, and have a strong sense of fun. It is unsurprising, therefore, that members of the YLD are often selected as Finest Honorees. The authors of this article are both alumni of the campaign (Callie Guy, 2020; Rachel Adams, 2021), are currently involved with the Richmond Chapter's Young Professionals Leadership Council, and chaired (Guy) and vice-chaired (Adams) the 2023 Richmond's Finest campaign. In addition, current and past YLD members who have been recognized as Richmond's Finest include Andy Mathews (2018), Andrea Harlow (2017), and Laura Windsor (2011).⁷

Together with the rest of the 2023 cohort, Askin and Novak raised over \$187,000 (a record-setting amount) since January of this year in support of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, and the Richmond's Finest campaign has raised over \$2 million since its inception in 2010.

Given the track record of leadership and community involvement represented in the YLD, the Richmond's Finest Committee would not be surprised to see

future generations of YLD members continuing to help find a cure for Cystic Fibrosis. ■

Editor's note: Readers who would like to learn more can contact Callie (cguy@cblaw.com) or Rachel (radams@t-mlaw.com).

Endnotes

1. Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, *About Cystic Fibrosis*, CFF.ORG, <https://www.cff.org/intro-cf/about-cystic-fibrosis> (last visited June 6, 2023).
2. *Id.*
3. *Id.*

4. Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, *Path to a Cure: Many Routes, One Mission*, CFF.ORG, <https://www.cff.org/research-clinical-trials/path-cure-many-routes-one-mission> (last visited June 6, 2023).
5. Theresa Carvahlo, *Trikafta for CF*, CYSTIC FIBROSIS NEWS TODAY (June 1, 2023), <https://cysticfibrosisnewstoday.com/trikafta/>.
6. Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, *About Us*, CFF.ORG, <https://www.cff.org/about-us> (last visited June 6, 2023).
7. Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, *Alumni*, FINEST.CFF.ORG, <https://finest.cff.org/Richmond/Static/Alumni> (last visited June 6, 2023).



Quinn Novak, Alex Rendon, Kerrigan O'Malley & Briggs Cocke have fun in the photo booth.



Rachel Adams and Callie Guy toast to a successful Brewer's Ball.