EXECUTIVE INFORMATION

Mission Statement and History
Board of Governors
Executive Committee
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Legislative Counsel
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Deceased Past Presidents of the VBA
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THE MISSION OF THE VIRGINIA BAR ASSOCIATION

The Virginia Bar Association is the independent voice of the Virginia lawyer, advancing the highest ideals of the profession through advocacy and volunteer service.

HISTORY OF THE VIRGINIA BAR ASSOCIATION

In July 1888, more than 100 attorneys met in Virginia Beach to form the Virginia State Bar Association. Led by Francis H. McGuire of the Richmond Bar Association, which was then three years old, they organized to address their goal of “improving the law and the administration of justice, and upholding the standard of honor and integrity in the legal profession.”

In 1889, the association held its initial meeting at the Old White (now known as The Greenbrier) in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia. The association has always been a voluntary organization - unrestricted by any formal connection with state government, and free to engage in activities calculated to benefit the public and improve the legal profession and the judiciary.

For 50 years, the Virginia State Bar Association was the only statewide bar group. In 1938, after 13 years of hard work by members of the association, the Virginia State Bar was created by statute. Subsequently, the “State” was dropped from the name of the voluntary association, so that it became The Virginia Bar Association.

The purpose of the association is set forth in the 1890 Charter which states its aim as:

“Cultivating and advancing the science of jurisprudence, promoting reform in the law and in judicial procedure, facilitating the administration of justice in this state, and upholding and elevating the standard of honor, integrity and courtesy.”

The association is concerned with the many facets of the practice of law and pursues programs designed to preserve the efficient and equitable administration of justice. The individual lawyer seeks to improve the law, serve the people of Virginia, and engage with other lawyers similarly concerned through the channels provided by the Association. A commitment to professionalism in its many expressions pervades all the activities of the association.

All licensed Virginia lawyers and lawyers in good standing of the bar in another state or the District of Columbia are eligible for membership in The Virginia Bar Association. Lawyers are admitted free to the VBA during their first year of admittance to the bar. Regular membership dues are $150-$300 per year. All Virginia judges receive free membership in the Association.
and law school faculty, governmental, public service and fully retired/fully disabled attorneys are eligible for reduced dues. Patrons of The Virginia Bar Association Foundation, a 501 (c)(3) organization, contribute additional funds and are recognized at four giving levels.

The association encourages members to be active in its various committees and sections. There are currently 20 sections (with individual dues of $25 per section) which all members may join, with the exception of the Judicial Section - which is open only to members of the judiciary. Approximately 45 committees of the association and the award-winning Young Lawyers Division serve a wide range of functions in the interest of the bar and the public.

The Young Lawyers Division is a vital part of the association. Lawyers age 37 and under, those having been first admitted to the bar less than three years ago, and law student members of the association are automatically YLD members.

Established in 1992 as a section of the VBA, the Law Practice Management became a division with automatic enrollment of every member of the association in 2002 - offering educational programs, publications, discounts on books published by the American Bar Association, and other member benefits. The Division reflects the priority the association places on law practice management, including both law office administration and the conduct of individual practices.

The association’s commitment to improving the law finds expression in its legislative activity. During the year, the association’s committees and sections analyze statutes within the ambit of their concern and bring their recommendations before the Board of Governors for endorsement. The association then actively pursues its program before the General Assembly.

The fostering of collegiality within the profession in Virginia is a traditional emphasis, as well. The Virginia Bar Association holds two meetings each year for the total membership: The Annual Meeting is held in Williamsburg, and the Summer Meeting is held in the Allegheny Mountains. Numerous smaller meetings, conferences, forums and roundtables held throughout the year advance the work of VBA sections and committees.

It is the aim of this association to bring together the best within the profession in Virginia to pursue common aims that advance the highest sense of professionalism and service within a storied calling.
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1891-92  Hon. John Randolph Tucker, Lexington  1939-40  Robert O. Norris, Jr., Lively
1892-93  R.T. Barton, Winchester  1940-41  Kennon C. Whittle, Martinsville
1893-94  Hon. Waller R. Staples, Christiansburg  1941-42  William A. Stuart, Abingdon
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1896-97  William Wirt Henry, Richmond  1944-46  Howard C. Gilmer, Jr., Pulaski
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1906-07  Allen Caperton Braxton, Staunton  1956-57  Edwin B. Meade, Danville
1907-08  Wyndham R. Meredith, Richmond  1957-58  J. Sloan Kuykendall, Winchester
1908-09  Micajah Woods, Charlottesville  1958-59  David J. Mays, Richmond
1909-10  R. Walton Moore, Fredericksburg  1959-60  William P. Dickson, Jr., Norfolk
1911-12  Joshua F. Bullitt, Big Stone Gap  1961-62  William T. Muse, Richmond
1912-13  William Minor Lile, Charlottesville  1962-63  Waldo G. Miles, Bristol
1913-14  Samuel Griffin, Bedford City  1963-64  Hon. Thomas C. Gordon, Jr., Richmond
1914-15  Legh R. Watts, Portsmouth  1965-66  Virginius R. Shackelford, Jr., Orange
1915-16  Eppa Hunton, Jr., Richmond  1965-66  Hon. George M. Cochran, Staunton
1916  John B. Jenkins, Norfolk  1966-67  A.C. Epps, Richmond
1916-18  Harvey T. Hall, Roanoke  1967-68  William A. Moncure, Alexandria
1919-20  Randolph Harrison, Lynchburg  1969-70  Hon. Toy D. Savage, Jr., Norfolk
1920-21  Armistead C. Gordon, Staunton  1970-71  E. Waller Dudley, Alexandria
1921-22  A.W. Wallace, Fredericksburg  1971-72  John S. Davenport, Ill, Richmond
1922-23  Edward P. Buford, Lawrenceville  1972-73  Vernon M. Geddy, Jr., Williamsburg
1923-24  George Bryan, Richmond  7/1973-1/75 W. Gibson Harris, Richmond
1924-25  Robert B. Tunstall, Richmond  1975  Thomas V. Monahan, Winchester
1925-26  John Randolph Tucker, Richmond  1976  Hon. William B. Spong, Jr., Portsmouth
1926-27  R. Gray Williams, Winchester  1979  Jesse B. Wilson, Ill, Fairfax
1927-28  James H. Corbitt, Suffolk  1980  Lorenzo Lee Bean, Jr., Arlington
1928-29  Whitwell W. Coxe, Roanoke  1982  John F. Kay Jr., Richmond
1929-30  J. Gordon Bohannan, Petersburg  1983  John L. Walker, Jr., Roanoke
1930-31  Robert L. Pennington, Bristol  1984  George G. Grattan, IV, Earlysville
1931-32  Virginius Randolph Shackelford, Orange  1985  Evans B. Brasfield, Richmond
1932-33  James W. Gordon, Richmond  1988  John M. Ryan, Norfolk
1933-34  S.V. Kemp, Lynchburg  1995  Hon. R. Terrence Ney, Fairfax
1934-35  C. O’Conor Goolrick, Fredericksburg  2007  Glenn C. Lewis, Fairfax
1935-36  Stuart Bland Campbell, Wytheville
AWARDS PRESENTED BY
THE VIRGINIA BAR ASSOCIATION

GERALD L. BALILES DISTINGUISHED
SERVICE AWARD*
in recognition and appreciation of exceptional
service and contributions to the bar and public at
large.

Hon. Lewis F. Powell, Jr., 1988
Dean Emerson G. Spies, 1990
Hon. William B. Spong, Jr., 1992
Hon. Harry L. Carrico, 1993
Hon. Hunter B. Andrews, 1995
Hon. George M. Cochran, 1997
Hon. W. Taylor Murphy, Jr., 1999
Hon. Gerald L. Baliles, 2001
Hon. Whittington W. Clement, 2003
Hon. Kenneth B. Stolle, 2007
Hon. Elizabeth B. Lacy, 2008
Hon. Leroy R. Hassell, Sr., 2011
G. Michael Pace, Jr., 2013
Hon. A. Linwood Holton, Jr., 2014
Hon. L. Douglas Wilder, 2014
Hon. Cynthia D. Kinser, 2015
Hon. John Charles Thomas, 2016
Chief Justice Donald W. Lemons, 2017
Prof. A.E. Dick Howard, 2022

*Renamed in 2008 for Gov. Baliles

ROGER D. GROOT PRO BONO PUBLICO
SERVICE AWARD*
in recognition and appreciation of outstanding
pro bono and community service.

R. Barrow Blackwell, 1987
John C. Kenny, 1989
Henry W. McLaughlin, III, 1992
Philip B. Morris, 1993
Gail Starling Marshall, 1993
George H. Hettrick, 1994
Overton P. Pollard, 1995
Prof. Robert E. Shepherd, Jr., 1996
Nina E. Olson, 1999
David B. Rubinstein, 2000
Prof. Roger D. Groot, 2005
John M. Oakey, Jr., 2010
John D. Epps, 2012
James M. Hingeley, 2014
Lori D. Thompson, 2015
G. Andrew Nea, Jr., 2018
*Renamed in 2006 for Professor Groot

ROBERT E. SHEPHERD, JR. AWARD
in recognition for excellence in the advocacy
for children.

Andrew K. Block, Jr., 2009
Prof. Margaret Ivey, 2015
AWARDS PRESENTED BY
THE VIRGINIA BAR ASSOCIATION

WILLIAM B. SPONG, JR.,
PROFESSIONALISM AWARD
for leadership and example inspiring to the legal profession and the public.

Hon. Harry L. Carrico, 1997
R. Harvey Chappell, 1998
Daniel J. Meador, 1999
Minerva W. Andrews, 2000
Robert N. Baldwin, 2005
Kathy L. Mays, 2005
Thomas E. Spahn, 2009
William R. Van Buren, III, 2009
Jeanne F. Franklin, 2014
Anthony J. Gambardella, Jr., 2016
Guy T. Tripp, III, 2016
Phillip C. Stone, Sr., 2018

WALKER AWARD OF MERIT
in recognition and appreciation of exceptional leadership within the bar.

Harry J. Warthen, III, 1990
John S. Stump, 1993
Wilson F. Vellines, Jr., 1994
David W. Parrish, Jr., 1995
Courtland S. Traver, 1997
Sandra P. Thompson, 1998
Charles E. Friend, 1999
Dexter C. Rumsey, III, 2002
Thomas E. Spahn, 2004
Overton P. Pollard, 2005
Allen C. Goolsby, 2006
Betty A. Thompson, 2009
Guy K. Tower, 2011
David Craig Landin, 2013
Hugh M. Fain, III, 2016
W. David Harless, 2016
E. Tazewell Ellett, 2019

PRESIDENT’S AWARD
Gary D. LeClair, 2017
Gant Redmon, 2018

SPECIAL RECOGNITION
in appreciation of significant support of the mission of The Virginia Bar Association.

Sandra P. Thompson, 2003
Henry D. Light, 2004
Michael J. Quinan, 2019

PLAQUE PRESENTATION
W. Taylor Reveley, III, 2018

AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN LEGAL JOURNALISM
Carl Esposito, 2010
J. Todd Foster, 2010
Daniel Gilbert, 2010
Virginia Business, 2012
Virginia Lawyers Weekly, 2012
Dahlia Lithwick, 2016

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY AWARD
in recognition and appreciation of outstanding service in promoting the legislative agenda of the association.

Patrick C. Devine, Jr., 2011
Cheshire I’Anson Eveleigh, 2015
Allen C. Goolsby, 2020
Charles L. Menges, 2020
SUMMER MEETING LEXIS/NEXIS (formerly Michie) HONOREES:

Justice & Mrs. Lewis F. Powell, Jr., 1982
VBA Judicial Life Members, 1983
Deans of Virginia Law Schools, 1984
Dean Emerson G. Spies, 1985
Judges of Virginia Court of Appeals, 1986
Justice George M. Cochran, 1987
Law School Dean Randall Bezanson (W&L), and
Law School Dean Thomas Jackson (UVA), 1988
Justice Richard H. Poff, 1989
Justice Elizabeth B. Lacy, 1990
Law School Dean Robert E. Scott (UVA), 1992
Past VBA Presidents, 1993
Law School Dean Barry Sullivan (W&L), 1994
VBA Journal Board & Editorial Staff, 1995
Chief Court of Appeals Judge Norman Moon, 1996
State Corporation Commission Judges, 1997
Chief Court of Appeals Judge Johanna Fitzpatrick, 1998
VBA Judicial Section, 1999
Justice A. Christian Compton, 2000
U.S. District Judge Robert Merhige (E.D. Va.), 2001
Secretary of the Army John O. Marsh, Jr., 2002
ABA President A.P. Carlton, 2003
ABA President Dennis Archer, 2004
ABA President Robert J. Grey, Jr., 2005
Governor Timothy Kaine, 2006
U.S. Senator John W. Warner, 2007
Law School Dean Paul G. Mahoney (UVA)
Law School Dean John G. Douglass (U of R), and
Interim President and former Law School Dean W.
W. Taylor Reveley, III (W&M), 2008
Justice William C. Mims
(Supreme Court of Virginia), 2010
U.S. Attorney Timothy J. Heaphy (W.D. Va.), 2011
John G. Finneran, Jr., 2012

Anders Ganten, 2013
George K. Martin, 2014
Old Dominion Bar Association, on its 75th anniversary, 2015
Justice S. Bernard Goodwyn, 2017
AWARDS PRESENTED BY
THE YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION

SANDRA P. THOMPSON AWARD (formerly known as the VBA/YLD Fellows Award)
in recognition of a VBA Young Lawyers Division member for outstanding work and long-term service.

Daniel A. Carrell, 1979
Robert H. Powell, III, 1979
Gregory N. Stillman, 1981
Patricia M. Schwarzschild, 1983
Thomas G. Bell, Jr., 1985
Robert M. Rolfe, 1985
E. Tazewell Ellett, 1989
John D. Epps, 1989
D. French Slaughter, III, 1990
Kurt J. Krueger, 1991
Michael F. Urbanski, 1992
Michael P. Falzone, 1993
Lynne Jones Blain, 1994
Amy T. Holt, 1994
Nancy N. Rogers, 1995
Mary Hoge Anderson, 1996
Bruce M. Steen, 1996
Kevin P. Oddo, 1997
Brian K. Jackson, 1998
Attison L. Barnes, III, 1999
Charles G. Meyer, III, 2000
Mary Catherine Zinsner, 2001
Monica Taylor Monday, 2002
Melissa Amos Young, 2002
Katherine Harman-Stokes, 2003
King F. Tower, 2003
Nicole Chrisman Daniel, 2004
Elizabeth Mason Horsley, 2005
Richard H. Ottinger, 2006
Katja H. Hill, 2007
Matthew E. Cheek, 2008
R. Lucas Hobbs, 2009
Andrew P. Sherrod, 2010
Rudene Mercer Haynes, 2011
Heather Hays Lockerman, 2012
W. Alexander Burnett, 2013
Hon. Daniel E. Ortiz, 2014
Samuel T. Towell, 2014
Christopher M. Gill, 2015
Nupur S. Bal, 2016
Steven Gould, 2017
Daniel Mauler, 2019
Andrew B. Stockment, 2020
Madelaine K. Katz, 2021
Jennifer L. Ligon, 2022

EMERSON G. SPIES AWARD
in recognition of a VBA Young Lawyers Division member for enthusiasm, loyalty and dedication in the work of the Association in a given year.

Douglas M. Nabhan, 1991
Mary Hoge Ackerly, 1992
Anne K. Walker, 1992
Philip W. Parker, 1993
Cheryl Watson Smith, 1994
Harry M. Johnson, III, 1995
Attison L. Barnes, III, 1996
Mary Catherine Zinsner, 1997
Erica S. Beardsley, 1998
Katherine Harman-Stokes, 1998
Stephen D. Otero, 1999
Patrick R. Hanes, 2000
Cyane B. Crump, 2001
Agustin E. Rodriguez, 2001
Michael L. Walton, 2002
Daniel E. Ortiz, 2003
Molly Shuttleworth Evans, 2004
Rudene Mercer Bascomb, 2005
Heather Hays Lockerman, 2006
Derek H. Swanson, 2007
Travis G. Hill, 2008
Audrey J. Burges, 2009
Robert H. Barrett, 2010
Matthew A. Kapinos, 2010
Dana Dews, 2011
Virginia B. Flynn, 2012
Andrew B. Stockment, 2012
Christopher M. Gill, 2013
John Britton Williston, 2014
Laura Golden Liff, 2015
Seth J. Ragosta, 2016
Jeremy S. Williams, 2017
Jonathan Puvak, 2017
Emily Gomes, 2017
Kristen R. Jurjevich, 2019
Craig A. Hoovler, 2020
Hetal Challa, 2021
Ann Petros, 2022