

**Family Law Section**  
**2015 – 16 Annual Report**  
**Charles E. Powers, Chair**

The Virginia State Bar Family Law Section continued its tradition of a busy and productive year. The Section sponsors two sets of Seminars in conjunction with Virginia CLE. In October, we presented the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Family Law Seminar in Fairfax, Richmond and Norfolk. These seminars are well attended and thought provoking, and are geared towards basic instruction for new family lawyers. In April, we co-sponsored the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Advanced Family Law Seminar: Trial Skills which is our most successful Seminar in terms of attendance. It was another sell out Seminar! The Section is very proud of our Virginia Family Law Quarterly, which is under the third year of Editor Brian Hirsch. It continues to be one of the most sought after Quarterly's of the entire Virginia State Bar.

Every year the Section recognizes eight of the Outstanding Family Law Graduates from each of the eight Virginia Law Schools. The winners receive an engraved copy of the 2016 edition of *Virginia Practice: Theory, Practice, & Forms*. These books are generously donated by Thomson Reuters. They also receive a signed, framed, personalized certificate. Their names and schools are listed on our websight here <http://www.vsb.org/site/sections/family/law-student-book-awards>

The Betty A. Thompson Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Carl J. Witmeyer of Ashland, Virginia. No Family Law Service Award was presented this year.

The Section remains the third largest Section in the Virginia State Bar and we began the year with 1,933 members , which included 215 judges. We ended the year with 2,061 members, which included 218 judges.

Our Officers for the 2016 – 17 bar year include: Dan Gray - Chair; Larry Vance - Vice Chair and Mary Commander – Secretary.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as chair over the past year.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles E. Powers