

Michael Glasser Installed as State Bar President

Michael Glasser's father, well-known Norfolk attorney Bernard Glasser, told his youngest son, who was then in high school, that the family did not need any more lawyers in it. The elder Glasser had two sons in the legal profession. "Be a doctor," he said. "You would be a great doctor."



"My father was my hero and my best friend, and I would have walked over hot coals for him," Glasser said. Michael pored over the science tables at high school career days in Norfolk and volunteered in a local ER. He saw the "dead" brought back to life there—was impressed and inspired. He enrolled in the pre-med track at UVA and was run off the rails by chemistry courses. "They nearly killed me," he said

"I told my Dad, 'Look, I've grown up around a dinner table where law was discussed. I have heard about it my entire lifetime. I wanted to be a doctor for you, but . . .'"

VSB Executive Director Thomas Edmonds was dean of the T.C. Williams School of Law when Michael graduated in 1978. He joined his father and brothers in the Norfolk practice. "We were a family package. We walked down Main Street, ate lunch together. My father was proud as a peacock." Michael worked with his father for "three good years" before he died at age 73.

Today he still practices with his brother, Richard Glasser, who says that they have never had a serious argument in the business, or personally. "Although Michael is 12 years younger than I, he is a mentor to me," Richard says.

The firm is located in an award-winning building across from city hall, near the location of the original Glasser & Glasser. The firm today has 20 attorneys and practices in areas as diverse as toxic tort litigation, creditor's rights, commercial litigation, and maritime law.

Glasser has served the bar in various capacities, including serving as a member of the council of the VSB since 1993, member of the disciplinary board since 1995, member of the budget and finance committee since 1997, and member of the executive committee since 1998. He also served as a member of the bar's committee on women and minorities.

The 2001-2002 President of the Virginia State Bar, Michael A. Glasser, Esq., is the son of a Lawyer's Lawyer. Like his father, he loves the law, and is greatly admired in his community. He says he does not regret a minute of his professional life.

"I'll never measure up to be the man my father was," he says. But he is thankful for the chance to try, in a place he calls home.

Michael Glasser's father, Bernard, started practicing law in Norfolk in 1932, and the family business firm has been located within 300 yards of its original location for almost 70 years. In August 2000, Glasser & Glasser, with the assistance of the City of Norfolk, moved into the new Crown Center on East Main Street. The building was honored for "excellence in development" in the greater Hampton Roads area.



“Recently I was having one of those ‘What’s it all about?’ discussions with an associate at lunch,” Michael recalled, picking up his water glass. “I decided that I can only hope to add a little drop to this half-filled glass—that I have an obligation to make the world a little bit better than when I arrived.” ☺



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Top: Michael Glasser was sworn in as the 63rd VSB president by Chief Justice Harry Carrico at the annual meeting banquet.

Glasser Family: Michael Glasser with wife, Lori, and sons (left to right) Jake, 10, Ross, 7, and Bern, 12.

Michael A. Glasser

Education:

B.A. *with distinction*, Government & Foreign Affairs,
University of Virginia

J.D., University of Richmond, T.C. Williams School of Law

Law Firm:

Glasser & Glasser, P.L.C., Norfolk, Va.

Member of the management committee

Bar Involvement:

Virginia, 1978

VSB Executive Committee

Bar of the Supreme Court of the United States, 1997

U.S. District Court, 1978

Eastern District of Virginia, 1978

U.S. Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit, 1978

Other Law-Related Position:

Special Counsel to the Attorney General
of the Commonwealth of Virginia for
claims and collections 1986–present

Special Counsel to the Commonwealth’s Attorney
of the City of Norfolk 1989–present

General Receiver for the Circuit Court
of the City of Norfolk, Va. 1998–present