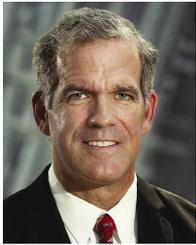


President's Message

by Kevin E. Martingayle



Passing the Baton...

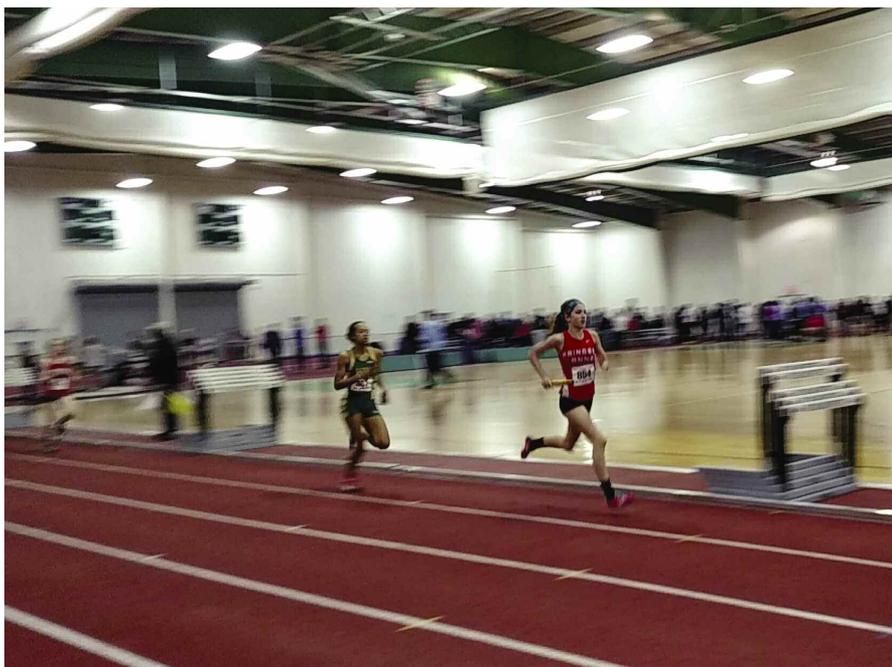
“Everybody can be great because everybody can serve.” — Martin Luther King, Jr.

“Everything you need is already inside. Just do it.” — Bill Bowerman

AS A LIFELONG RUNNER AND RACER, I have always found track relay races to be thrilling and fascinating, whether I was participating or merely watching. Achieving success requires effort, coordination, talent, and sometimes a little luck. Watching the baton move from athlete to athlete on a well-trained relay team is a thing of beauty.

It is with that mental picture in mind that I prepare to hand off my responsibilities to the next Virginia State Bar president, Edward L. Weiner, who will be installed at the 77th VSB Annual Meeting in Virginia Beach in June. While the passage of leadership from one president to the next will not have the visual excitement of a relay race, you can count on the VSB leaders and staff to engage in a transition that is as smooth, cooperative, and seamless as possible.

This has been a successful year for the VSB. With the valuable assistance of the voluntary bars and lawyers across Virginia, we were able to make great strides in filling judicial vacancies. The General Assembly also raised the mandatory judicial retirement age from 70 to 73. More generally, but importantly, we managed to avoid any significant conflicts with our friends in the other branches of government, and I am optimistic that relationships have grown and improved in ways that will benefit the judiciary, our profession, and the public.



Doria Martingayle carrying the baton during a relay race.

This year also saw the passing of the baton from former Chief Justice Cynthia D. Kinser to current Chief Justice Donald W. Lemons, as well as the installation of a new member of our Supreme Court, Justice D. Arthur Kelsey. Having had the opportunity to communicate with bar leaders of many other states during my tenure as president-elect and president of the VSB, I can tell you that we are envied for the accuracy, efficiency, independence, and skill demonstrated by our judiciary. Other bar leaders also marvel at the open communication between the

VSB and our Supreme Court, and the healthy relationships between our three branches of government.

In short, we've got a good thing going here in the commonwealth.

Although I have had a smooth ride as president — especially when compared with some of the bumpy trips that a few of my predecessors experienced — I feel about as responsible for that as a passenger in an airplane should feel for a smooth flight. I need to give credit where it is due. At the risk of leaving out some deserving folks, here goes....

President's Message

First, I have to thank the members of our Supreme Court. The VSB serves as its agency, and we have enjoyed terrific two-way communication and cooperation over the past year. It has been a pleasure and a privilege.

Next, a hearty thanks to VSB Executive Director Karen A. Gould, as well as the entire talented staff at the VSB. Unless you have had the chance to see the operation up close, it would be difficult for you to imagine the dedication and productivity within the organization. These professionals keep the relay going, even as presidents come and go.

I also owe a debt of thanks to the current and former members of the VSB Council and Executive Committee with whom I have served, and in particular the several presidents who preceded me and set the example for how to do

the job, including Irv Blank, George Shanks, David Harless, and Sharon Nelson. I have received too much valuable guidance from too many individuals to name all of them, but I want everyone to know that it is deeply appreciated.

Next, I need to thank my law partners and staff at my firm, Bischoff Martingayle PC. In my year as president-elect, and then in my year as president, I have worked on many projects that took me out of the office, reduced my productivity for the firm, and required help from others. It is truly gratifying to be a part of a great team.

Last, and certainly not least, I am taking this opportunity to publicly and emphatically thank my wife and children. I undertook this journey with their blessings and encouragement, and even though I have been away a lot and

missed some important events, I never heard a single complaint. Not one. Lizzie, Harrison, Doria, and Jackson: Thank you. Your unwavering support means everything to me.

As I close out my run as president and prepare to pass the baton to my successor, I want each of my fellow bar members to know that the leaders and staff at the VSB try very hard to stay focused on our mission — protecting the public, advancing access to justice, and improving the legal profession and judicial system. These objectives remain constant, even as time rolls on and leaders change.

Soon I will pass the baton, but my gratitude shall endure. Thank you.

You're going places.

Take us with you.

Check your contact information of record, certify courses, and access Fastcase from anywhere, using the same login and password you now use on your computer.

Get it for free in the iTunes store.



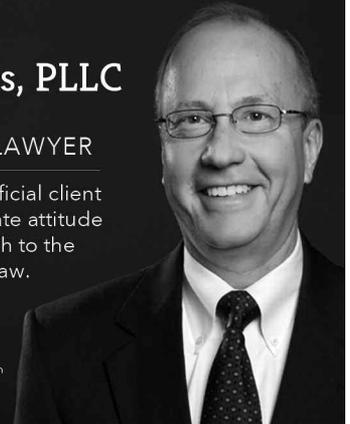
Norman A. Thomas, PLLC

VIRGINIA APPELLATE LAWYER

Dedicated to achieving beneficial client outcomes through a passionate attitude and craftsmanlike approach to the practice of appellate law.

6802 Paragon Place
Suite 410
Richmond, VA 23230

www.NormanThomasLaw.com
(804) 441-6177



Security Clearance Lawyers

McAdoo Gordon & Associates, P.C.

202-293-0534

www.mcadoolaw.com