

## VSB Honors Attorneys

The Virginia State Bar presented awards to the following lawyers during its annual meeting:

### WILLIAM R. RAKES LEADERSHIP IN EDUCATION AWARD

*Presented by the Section on the Education of Lawyers in Virginia.*

**Elizabeth B. Lacy**, senior justice, Supreme Court of Virginia



Elizabeth B. Lacy, senior justice of the Supreme Court of Virginia, has been named the recipient of the William R. Rakes Leadership in Education Award from the Virginia State Bar Section on the Education of Lawyers in Virginia. Anita O. Poston, partner in Vandeventer Black LLP, wrote that, “Justice Lacy’s professional career is stellar by any measure. Her accomplishments as a lawyer and a jurist are exceptional, and it is difficult to segregate her leadership in the field of legal education from her many contributions to the justice system generally. . . . She has been an extraordinary force for good and has provided leadership at both the state and national levels to improve the quality of legal education.”

### TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE AWARD

*Presented by the General Practice Section.*

**Stephen M. Quillen**, Lebanon



Stephen M. Quillen, a third-generation solo practitioner in Russell County, has been named the 2014 recipient of

the Tradition of Excellence Award by the Virginia State Bar’s General Practice Section. He was nominated for the award by Joseph M. Bowen, an attorney in Tazewell, and Nancy C. Dickenson, assistant federal public defender in Abingdon. “For almost sixty years, Stephen M. Quillen has exemplified the highest level of legal ethics, scholarship, civility and advocacy as counsel for the citizens, businesses, Army Reserve and local government agencies of rural Russell County and the surrounding area in southwestern Virginia,” they wrote. They also cited his ability, insight, judgment, and common sense while praising the “assistance and guidance that he has given hundreds of law school students and newly licensed lawyers. . . . He has devoted his life to the practice of law, to his family and to his community.” Their nomination was followed by more than two dozen letters of support.

### VIRGINIA LEGAL AID AWARD

*Presented by the Special Committee on Access to Legal Services.*

**Christine E. Marra**, Virginia Poverty Law Center, Richmond



Christine E. (Christie) Marra is a family and housing law attorney with the Virginia Poverty Law Center, which provides legal aid training and public policy advocacy. A nominating letter signed by seven members of the center noted that Marra “has provided direct representation and legislative and regulatory advocacy on issues such as foster care, adoption, domestic violence, divorce, child support, public benefits and low-income housing. Her vigilance and persistence have led to reforms that make a measurable difference in the lives of Virginians who face hard times.”

### OLIVER WHITE HILL STUDENT PRO BONO AWARD

*Presented by the Special Committee on Access to Legal Services.*

**Kathleen Dwyer**, University of Richmond



Kathleen Dwyer is a 2014 graduate of the University of Richmond School of Law and a Virginia Tech graduate. During her law school career, Dwyer volunteered with an intensive writing project through the law school’s Pro Bono Veterans Appeals Program and served as part of the writing team that prepared a veterans law update for the Federal Circuit Bar Association (FCBA) that was published in the *FCBA Journal*. Dwyer also participated in the Criminal Appeals program at the Harry L. Carrico Center for Pro Bono Service, where she worked with attorney Cullen D. Seltzer of Sands Anderson in the representation of an indigent defendant. Dwyer wrote the appellate briefs and argued the case before the Virginia Court of Appeals. “(Dwyer’s) work on behalf of an unpopular indigent, accused of the most serious crimes, which work (she) has undertaken without compensation of any sort, is consistent with the highest ideals of the bar and our profession,” Seltzer wrote.

**CLARENCE M. DUNNAVILLE, JR.  
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

*Presented by the Diversity Conference.*

**Martha JP  
McQuade,**  
McQuade Byrum  
PLC, Alexandria



McQuade is a partner with McQuade Byrum PLLC in Alexandria. She has practiced family law for twenty years. She has served on the Fairfax Bar CLE Committee, the Virginia State Bar Bench-Bar Committee, and the Virginia Supreme Court Judicial Education Committee. She is a past president of the Virginia Commission on Women and Minorities in the Legal System and the Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia. She is immediate past chair of the District of Columbia Bar Rules/Regulations/Board Procedures Committee, and is first vice chair of the Virginia State Bar Lawyer Disciplinary Board. In her letter nominating McQuade, last year's recipient, Darrel Tillar Mason, wrote: "Equality is the very foundation of Martha's character. Whether it be arguing for equal locker room facilities as a college student at the University of Texas, calling attention to the inequities among the genders in her first career as a journalist, or advocating for equal pay for women and the advancement of women to the bench in her current legal vocation, she is a constant advocate for equal rights and gender equality in all aspects of her life."

**R. EDWIN BURNETTE, JR.  
YOUNG LAWYER OF THE YEAR  
AWARD**

*Presented by the Young Lawyers  
Conference.*

**Edwin J. Wu,**  
assistant public  
defender,  
Portsmouth



Edwin J. Wu has been a member of the Portsmouth Public Defenders Office since September 2013. He is also an adjunct professor at Norfolk State University where he teaches business law and federal income taxation to undergraduate students. In his nominating letter, Christopher R. Fortier described Wu as "a true community servant and a mentor for the profession's next generation. His impact on this profession has already been large as he has opened new avenues for minority law students to get the education they need to serve their communities without leaving home."

**LOCAL BAR LEADER OF THE  
YEAR AWARD**

*Presented by the  
Conference of Local  
Bar Associations.*

**Kathleen M. Uston,**  
assistant bar counsel,  
Virginia State  
Bar, Alexandria



Kathleen M. (Katie) Uston has been an active member of the Alexandria bar since she graduated from George Mason University School of Law in 1991. Her contributions to the local and state bars, and to the Alexandria community have been extensive. Dipti Pidikiti-Smith wrote that, "Katie contributes a sense of integrity in the legal profession, promotes collegial relationships among the association's members and involvement in the bar and responds to the legal needs within the community."

Katie has inspired and motivated me and her peers to service through her leadership."

**BAR ASSOCIATION OF THE YEAR  
AWARD**

*Presented by the Conference of Local Bar  
Associations.*

**Roanoke Bar Association**

The Roanoke Bar Association has an extensive record of providing services to the community, performing charitable works, and offering pro bono services. Members of the Roanoke Bar have participated in Barrister Book Buddies with the Roanoke City Public Schools for fourteen years. They have worked with the Salem/Roanoke County Bar Association to offer Rule of Law classes in middle schools since 2009 and this year held classes in twelve schools. Members have offered You and the Law educational seminars to the public since 2009. In addition, members offer free wills, powers of attorney, advance medical directives, and estate planning to first responders; participate in the Red Cross blood drive; financially support the Roanoke Law Library; and share in the Oliver Hill Mentoring Program.