



# 78 ANNUAL MEETING

JUNE 16-19 2016  
VIRGINIA BEACH

## The 2016 Annual Meeting: Be Inspired, Again

More than 600 lawyers and judges, including all seven justices of the Supreme Court of Virginia, attended this year's Annual Meeting in Virginia Beach. They relaxed in the sun, braved a brief downpour, and beat against the stiff ocean breezes to attend five Continuing Legal Education seminars, as well as lunches, receptions, award ceremonies, investitures, and speeches. Starting with the Council reception Wednesday night, golf of Thursday, and running through the general session, Judiciary Squares CLE, tennis and volleyball tournaments on Saturday, attendees soaked up hours of inspiration and camaraderie, and took advantage of unlimited networking.

One highlight, as always, was the Legal Aid and Oliver Hill Pro Bono Awards Luncheon on Friday. Simon Sandoval-Moshenberg, legal director of the Legal Aid Justice Center's Immigrant Advocacy Center received the Legal Aid Lawyer of the Year Award, and Lt. Kaylee R. Gum, a third-year student at William & Mary Law School, received the Oliver

White Hill Student Pro Bono Award. George T. "Buck" Lewis III of Baker Donelson in Memphis, Tennessee, who is leading the ABA's national effort to create Freelegalanswers pro bono websites in all fifty states, gave a humorous and energizing speech on the national endeavor. See page 69 for excerpts from his remarks, which received a standing ovation from the lawyers and judges in attendance. Lewis's entire speech is available at [VSB.org](http://VSB.org).



Dee Norman



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1. George T. "Buck" Lewis of Baker Donelson in Memphis, Tennessee.
2. Lewis spoke about pro bono heroes to a crowd that included Virginia Supreme Court justices Cleo E. Powell, Elizabeth A. McClanahan, William C. Mims, and S. Bernard Goodwyn.



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Trevor Wrayton  
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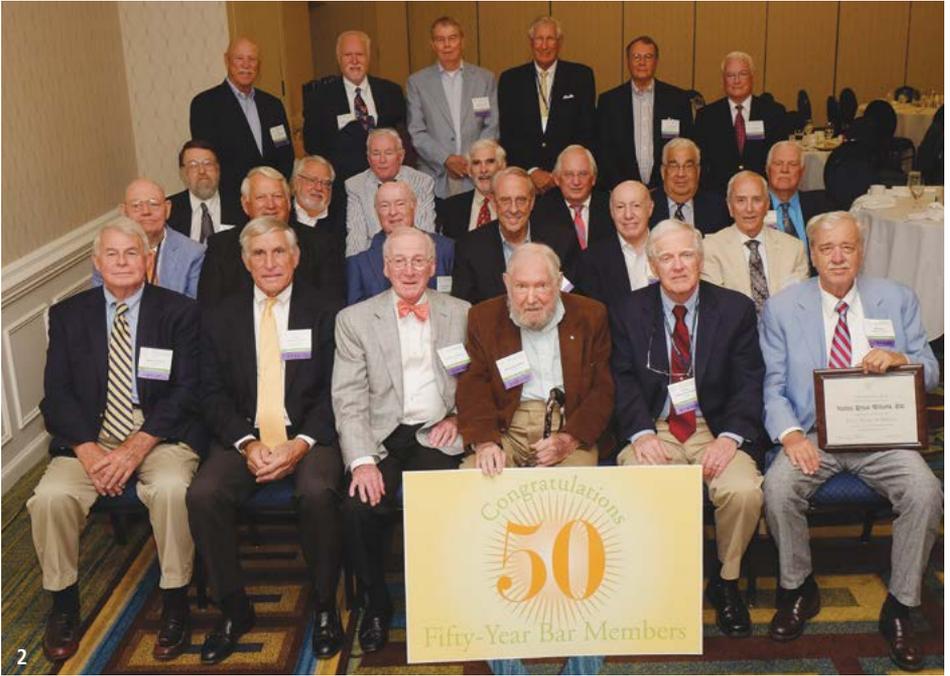
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1. Outgoing VSB President Edward L. Weiner receives a caricature from VSB Executive Director Karen A. Gould at the Wednesday night Council Reception and Dinner.
2. Newly-inducted VSB president for 2016–17 Michael W. Robinson and his family.
3. Robinson is sworn in by Chief Justice Donald W. Lemons at the banquet on Friday night.
4. 2014–15 VSB President Kevin E. Martingayle (right) started a tradition of passing a baton to 2015–16 President Edward L. Weiner (center) last year. This year, Weiner passed the baton to Robinson as Martingayle looked on.
5. Robinson receives a standing ovation from the guests at the Friday night banquet.

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1. Virginia Attorney General Mark R. Herring (left) speaks with the Honorable Gerald Bruce Lee (right) as Clarence M. Dunnaville Jr. (center) looks on. They were among the audience of about 120 people who attended the Diversity Conference CLE on Friday.
2. Attorneys who have been members of the VSB for fifty years were presented with awards honoring their achievement.
3. The Honorable Donald W. Lemons of the Virginia Supreme Court and his wife, Carol Lemons, at his acceptance of the Rakes Leadership in Education Award.
4. Outgoing council members received awards for service to the VSB at the Wednesday night Council Reception and Dinner.
5. The Honorable S. Bernard Goodwyn, VSB president Michael W. Robinson, Congressman Bobby Scott, Virginia Attorney General Mark R. Herring, and the Honorable Donald W. Lemons at the Friday night banquet.



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1. Some of the law students who attended the Annual Meeting as guests of the Diversity Conference posed with their mentors at the Friday night banquet. The annual mentor/mentee program was started last year when the Diversity Conference contacted the law schools to invite students to attend the meeting with an eye toward increasing diversity in the bar. Pictured, from left to right, are Beverly Burton, a founding member of the conference board; Vinceretta Chiles, chair-elect of the board; Jacqueline Branscomb, of the Antonin Scalia Law School at George Mason University; Brittany Johnson, of the University of Richmond School of Law; Alyssa Davis, of the Antonin Scalia Law School; Eva Juncker, former chair of the board; Kameron Melton, of the Marshall-Wythe School of Law at the College of William & Mary; Justice Cleo Powell, of the Supreme Court of Virginia; Providence Napoleon, immediate past-chair of the board; Brittany McGill, of the Marshall-Wythe Law School; Latoya Capers, chair of the board; Alexandra McPhee, of the Regent University School of Law; Vincent Smith, of the Washington and Lee University School of Law; Natasha Delille, of the Regent University School of Law; and Michael HuYoung, former chair of the board.
2. Gini Street accepts a proclamation in memory of her husband, former VSB president W. Scott Street III.
3. The Honorable Denis F. Soden accepts his Tradition of Excellence Award from Matthew J. Zwerdling.
4. Lt. Kaylee Gum of William & Mary Law School received the Oliver White Hill student award and Simon Sandoval-Moshenberg received the Legal Aid Award.

5. Attorney Kristan B. Burch presented Claire Dozier of McLean High School her award for winning the Law in Society Essay Contest.
6. Giovanni Di Maggio received the R. Edwin Burnette, Jr. Young Lawyer of the Year Award from Judge Burnette.

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1. Mary T. Morgan of Morgan Golightly & Mulligan received the Local Bar Leader of the Year Award from CLBA Chair J.B. Burch and Michael W. Robinson.
2. The South Hampton Roads Bar received the Local Bar of the Year Award.
3. The Conference of Local Bar Associations posed in Hawaiian leis and outfits at the awards luncheon.
4. CLBA members wearing Hawaiian shirts lunch with Doris H. Causey and Michael W. Robinson. CLBA members have been wearing Hawaiian-themed clothing to the meeting for years.



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1. The Young Lawyers Conference had the winning volleyball team at the David T. Stitt Memorial Volleyball Tournament, sponsored by Harris Matthews & Crowder PC. They defeated defending champions Team Martingayle.
2. The sandcastle contest featured talented builders and sunny weather.
3. The tennis tournament was sponsored by MichieHamlett at the Princess Anne Country Club.
4. Runners prepared for the annual 5K race, sponsored by Virginia Lawyers Weekly.
5. Ready, set, go! The 5K was won by Harrison Martingayle.

# 78th Annual Meeting

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1. President-elect Doris H. Causey addresses attendees at the general session.
2. The Judiciary Squares CLE featured nine Virginia jurists.
3. The Honorable Rossie D. Alston Jr. of the Virginia Court of Appeals and his alter ego Big Sis answer questions during Judiciary Squares.
4. Judges B. Waugh Crigler and Robert J. Humphreys take the first question at the Young Lawyers Conference Judiciary Squares CLE, which dealt with court reporters certifying the accuracy of a transcript.
5. Audience members at the Judiciary Squares CLE hold up green papers to indicate that they overwhelmingly agree with the "square's" answer. Hon. Stanley P. Klein (Ret.) moderated.



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1. Immediate Past-president Edward L. Weiner and his daughter, Maurissa, spin the bingo balls while attendees took a break from the beach and enjoyed refreshments and prizes. Sponsored by Walker Jones PC.
2. The annual meeting has always been a good reason to bring the family to the beach.
3. Jane M. Reynolds, president of the Old Dominion Bar Association, talked with Michael Robinson at the Friday night reception.
4. The raffle event also drew the biggest crowd and included drawings for a leather overnight bag, gift baskets, Apple Watch, Fitbit, Amazon Fire TV Stick, Kindle Paperwhite eReader, television, and three resort gift certificates. All prizes were sponsored by lawyers and law firms that contributed to the President's Entertainment Fund.



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# 78th Annual Meeting

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1. First time attendees, many of them law students, received a special ribbon on their badges to welcome them to their first Annual Meeting.
2. Three presidents, past, present, and future. Edward L. Weiner, Michael W. Robinson, and Doris H. Causey.
3. The Rare Mixx band kept the dance floor filled at the Friday night banquet.
4. The Friday night banquet is always a place to meet new people and renew friendships. Pictured are Andrea L. Bridgeman, the Honorable S. Bernard Goodwyn, Natasha Delille from Regent University Law School, and Kenneth Montero.

# The Soul of a Hero

by George T. “Buck” Lewis III

## Remarks given at the Oliver White Hill/Legal Aid Awards Luncheon

You know, Virginia and Tennessee have an awful lot in common. . . . But, we also share a problem. We both have a huge justice gap, and both of our Supreme Courts have created the Access to Justice Commissions to try to narrow the gap. . . . Our Tennessee Supreme Court challenged us to try and solve that problem with technology. We tried to keep the solution simple. We all get legal questions by e-mail from our clients every day, and we all answer them every day from our mobile devices. Heck, since I’ve been sitting in this luncheon, I’ve watched some of you give legal advice between the salad and the main course.

So, we created a website called “*Online TN Justice*” which was designed to simulate a limited scope walk-in clinic such as all of us have been to at a library or a courthouse. Low-income clients post questions and lawyers log on and answer them. As of last month, our website and our Tennessee lawyers have answered over 12,000 legal questions for people who could never afford a lawyer.

Of course, closing the justice gap requires collaboration. We offered this program to other states, and a half dozen have taken us up on it over the past five years. But, in May of last year, the ABA Pro Bono & Public Service Committee decided to take our model nationwide. We have spent the last year talking to states like Virginia about how this has worked in Tennessee and other states. And, we now have forty states that have signed up. . . .

States like Virginia will need to recruit volunteer lawyers, find a staff person who can spend a few hours a week serving as our state contact, and promote the use of the website. That’s it. We know this works because we have been doing it for five years. We are so proud to have Virginia participating. . . . What

an exciting day it will be when most of our country adds on-line pro bono to its access to its justice toolkit. . . .

Why is it that pro bono work is so important to the lawyers who do it? Why do lawyers derive so much joy from pro bono work? Well, some lawyers have decided that they don’t want billable hours to be their only legacy. In 2002, my mother was diagnosed with colon cancer. She had surgery in September. And, two months later, I was diagnosed with colon cancer as well. That winter, we had a long talk about what we thought was worthy and not so worthy of our time. . . . This long conversation with mom left me a little heartsick because I realized that I had wasted so much of my time. I did realize, however, that one of the most significant things that I had done was to volunteer at a pro bono clinic for HIV-positive clients in the heart of downtown Memphis. So, I believe some of us do this work because we find it worthy of our precious time, however much time that may be, and we want it to be part of our legacy.

Other lawyers help those less fortunate because it is the way we were raised. There is an exercise that we do in the leadership class at the U.T. College of Law to teach students about privilege. We seat them alphabetically. Then, we give them a piece of paper and we tell them to wad it up. We put a trash can at the front of the room, and we tell them, “If you can get your piece of paper in this trash can from your seat in the classroom, we’ll give you tickets for the Tennessee/Florida game.” Of course, the students who happen to sit in the front of the room think that is a pretty great deal. They easily get their paper into the trash can. The students half way back in the room are a bit more frustrated. Some of them are able to get their paper in the can, and some are not. The students in the back cry “foul” be-

cause, through no fault of their own, it is a long shot that they will get any tickets.

My mom and her parents had seats in the back of the room. When my grandfather was sick or the weather was bad, he earned no money. He had no health insurance. They lived off of my grandmother’s modest Welfare Department clerk’s salary and the generosity of my mother’s uncle who had a grocery store and gave them the unbought produce and meat out of the back door on Saturday afternoons. I was raised to understand that most poor people work harder than most rich people. I was raised to understand that there are lots of extremely smart and charismatic poor people. I was raised to understand that it is our responsibility to take care of each other because sometimes all a family needs is a little help to get over a rough patch. So, some lawyers do pro bono because it is the way they were raised.

Some lawyers do pro bono because they’re proud to be a lawyer. Most of us have never looked at the Preamble of our rules of professional conduct. But, the Preamble is another thing that Virginia and Tennessee share. Both of our states’ Preambles say that a lawyer is a “public citizen, responsible for the administration of justice and the quality of service rendered by the profession.” Both of our preambles say that “a lawyer should be mindful of the fact that the poor and sometimes persons who are not poor, cannot afford adequate legal assistance.”

Lawyers, therefore, should “devote professional time and civic influence” to the cause. When we are sworn in as lawyers, we are all too happy to agree to abide by the rules of professional conduct, and to fight for the core values of our profession. But, too many of us get lost in a sea of deadlines and mortgage payments, fancy cars and tuition costs.

We forget about being a public citizen with the obligation to devote professional time and civic influence on behalf of those who cannot afford legal assistance. But, many lawyers certainly do pro bono because we want to carry out the highest ideals of our profession.

You won't hear it said out loud very often, but for many lawyers, pro bono is a matter of their faith traditions. Every faith tradition places an importance upon justice.

- Exodus 23:6, "*You shall not deny justice to the poor in their lawsuits.*"
- Deuteronomy 16:20, "*Follow justice and justice alone.*"
- Psalm 106:3, "*Blessed are they that maintain justice, who constantly do what is right.*"
- Psalm 140:12, "*I know that the Lord secures justice for the poor and upholds the cause of the needy.*"
- The Torah: "*Justice, justice shall you pursue.*"
- The Quran: "*Behold, God enjoys justice and good actions and generosity to our fellows.*" "*Never let hatred lead us into deviating from justice.*"

These lawyers believe God doesn't call the enabled, God enables the called. So, they respond to the call for legal help with the battle cry from the book of Isaiah "Send me! ..."

Tennessee and Virginia share another thing. They both have lots of heroes. For example, we had Sergeant Alvin York, who won the Medal of Honor for his bravery in World War I. You had Desmond Doss of Lynchburg who showed courage as a conscientious objector — serving as a medic and pulling

scores of men to safety in World War II, never carrying a weapon.

They had the soul of a hero.

We had Cordell Hull who won the Nobel Prize for his work on behalf of the United Nations. You had Matthew LaPort, a 20-year-old sophomore at Virginia Tech who barricaded a door against a shooter's attack, rushed the gunman when he broke through the door, and gave his life to save his classmates.

They had the soul of a hero.

We have Dolly Parton who founded Imagination Library, sending 60 million free books to children since 1995. You had Maggie Walker — born to a slave in 1864 — who fought her whole life for the rights of women and minorities, and paved the way for generations of women and minority entrepreneurs to come.

They had the soul of a hero.

Lawyers who do pro bono are my heroes. We have Virginia heroes with us today.

We are honored to have with us Lt. Kaylee Gum. Kaylee has provided legal assistance to hundreds of veterans and active-duty personnel in Virginia and in Iraq. Kaylee inspires others at her veteran's benefits clinic, in the JAG Corp., in the Veteran's Law Society, and in the Iraq Access to Justice Project — to name a few.

Kaylee Gum, ladies and gentlemen, has the soul of a hero.

And, then there's Simon Sandoval-Moshenberg, director of the Legal Aid Justice Center's Immigrant Advocacy Center. Simon is the quintessential servant leader, creating the Virginia Special Immigrant Juvenile Project, fighting for

tenant's rights, and the rights of unrepresented children.

Simon, ladies and gentlemen, has the soul of a hero.

Five hundred and fifty miles from here on a hill in Tennessee stands a bronze statue of a Torchbearer. Inscribed on the base of that statue are the words, "*One that beareth the torch shadows oneself to give light to others.*" Kaylee shadows herself to give light to others. Simon shadows himself to give light to others. The 500 volunteers who answer questions pro bono on our website in Tennessee shadow themselves to give light to others, just as volunteers from Virginia and forty other states will do this Fall. Most of you in this room shadow yourselves to give light to others. In so doing, you are carrying out a tradition in this great Commonwealth of Virginia that is over 200 years old. And, our great and noble profession will continue to do so 200 years from today, and 200 years after that, because the soul of a hero never dies.

If you are interested in volunteering to be a part of Virginia's freelegalanswers project, please contact Karl Doss at the VSB ([doss@vsb.org](mailto:doss@vsb.org)) or download an application at [vsb.org/docs/volunteer-form-pb.pdf](http://vsb.org/docs/volunteer-form-pb.pdf).

## Save the Date

### 79th Annual Meeting

### June 15-18, 2017