

photo courtesy of Virginia Beach Convention and Visitors Bureau



73rd Annual Meeting Virginia Beach, Virginia June 16–19, 2011

At the Virginia State Bar’s Seventy-third Annual Meeting, George Warren Shanks of Luray was sworn in as president of the VSB, succeeding Irving M. Blank of Richmond. W. David Harless of Richmond became president-elect.

The program included a showcase continuing legal education program, “Judiciary Squares — An Interactive Review of Evidentiary Matters,” sponsored by the Young Lawyers Conference.

Other programs included “Through the Rabbit Hole: When Your Law Partner Is the Mad Hatter — Alzheimer’s and the Practicing Lawyer.” A panel of judges, lawyers, doctors, and support staff discussed the symptoms of Alzheimer’s, and offered insights and suggestions on how to determine if there is a dementia issue and how to effectively, kindly, and thoughtfully help a colleague.

Special events at this year’s Lawyers Expo included family bingo and book sales by Fountain Books.

And VSB groups honored Virginia lawyers, including attorneys who are in their fiftieth year of practice (see page 67).



Virginia Lawyers Weekly photo

1: George Warren Shanks (center) assumed the role of VSB president, succeeding Irving M. Blank (left), who led during the 2010–11 bar year. W. David Harless (right) is now president-elect and will become president in 2012.

2: James J. Knicely (left) of Williamsburg is the recipient of the General Practice Section’s Tradition of Excellence Award, presented by section Chair Jeffrey C. Flax. For more about Mr. Knicely, see page 26.

3: In keeping with an eighteen-year VSB tradition, Executive Director Karen A. Gould presents outgoing President Irving M. Blank with a caricature by Michael L. Goodman, a Glen Allen lawyer and cartoonist. Blank, who played varsity tennis at Virginia Tech, is shown volleying several balls imprinted with VSB issues.

4: At the Young Lawyers Conference luncheon were (left–right) YLC President Carson H. Sullivan, YLC Young Lawyer of the Year Joanna L. Faust, and YLC President-elect Christy E. Kiely. For more about Faust’s accomplishments, see page 26.



1: The Senior Lawyers Conference recognized fifty-year members of the VSB: (left-right) Myron C. Smith of Fairfax; John Harvey Quinn Jr. of Washington, D.C.; R. Arthur Jett Jr. of Norfolk; John Latane Melnick of Falls Church; Senior U.S. District Court Judge Henry Coke Morgan Jr. of Norfolk; Charles H. Osterhoudt of Roanoke; Daniel J. Dinan of Arlington, formerly a special trial judge for the U.S. Tax Court; James Pendleton Baber of Cumberland; R. Dennis McArver of McLean; and Barry Kantor of Virginia Beach.

2 and 3: Ten active and retired judges participated in “Judiciary Squares: An Interactive Review of Evidentiary Matters,” the showcase continuing legal education program sponsored by the Young Lawyers Conference. Stanley P. Klein, retired from the Fairfax Circuit, moderated. The other participants were (left–right, front) Beverly W. Snukals of the Richmond Circuit; Joel C. Cunningham of Halifax in the 10th Circuit; B. Waugh Crigler, a U.S. magistrate judge for the Western District of Virginia in Charlottesville; (middle) Deborah S. Roe of the Hampton Juvenile and Domestic Relations District; Robert W. Woodridge Jr., retired from the Fairfax Circuit; Barry G. Logsdon of the Newport News J&DR District; (back) Virginia Supreme Court Chief Justice Cynthia D. Kinser; Angela E. Roberts of the Richmond J&DR District; and Cleo E. Powell of the Virginia Court of Appeals.

4: President Blank and Nancy M. Reed, chair of the Conference of Local Bar Associations, present the 2011 Local Bar Leader of the Year Award to (left–right, with plaques) Tracy Ann Houck and Andrea L. Bridgeman. For more about the award winners, see page 26.

73rd Annual Meeting



1: Larry T. Harley (left) of Abingdon, who is in his eighteenth year as executive director of the Southwest Virginia Legal Aid Society, receives the Virginia Legal Aid Award from President Blank. See page 26 for more details.



2: Paul Galanti (at podium), Virginia commissioner of veterans services and a seven-year Vietnam prisoner of war, moderated a panel on veterans in the court system. Participants were (left–right) Lt. Col. Anthony Caruso, active-duty deputy chief of staff for the Virginia Army National Guard at Fort Pickett; David P. Morgan, a Navy veteran who practices with Cravens & Noll PC in Richmond; F. Don Nidiffer, Ph.D., of Charlottesville, executive director and co-principal investigator at Virginia NeuroCare for military service members with brain injuries and post-traumatic stress disorder; and Julia E. Keller, formerly of the Navy Judge Advocate General Corps, who practices with Gilbert, Albiston & Keller PLC in Norfolk. Sponsored by the VSB Criminal and Family Law Sections.



3: Among the special events at the annual meeting was an education program, “Through the Rabbit Hole: When Your Law Partner Is the Mad Hatter — Alzheimer’s and the Practicing Lawyer.” Participants were (left to right) moderator and former VSB president Jeannie P. Dahnk, VBS Ethics Counsel James M. McCauley, Norfolk Circuit Court Judge Charles E. Poston, executive director of Lawyers Helping Lawyers James Leffler, Dr. James F. Corcoran, and Frank O. Brown Jr. Panelist L. Lionel Hancock is not in picture.

4: Magician Rob Westcott’s antics caused a young assistant to get the giggles during the children’s dinner as he prepares to pull a rabbit out of a box.



Mark your calendar for the VSB 74th Annual Meeting
June 13–17, 2012

For more Annual Meeting photos, see our Flickr page, <http://bit.ly/73rd-VSB>.



1: The Lawyers Expo, sponsored by the VSB General Practice Section, featured the latest in law office technology and related products and services.

2: (Left–right) Andrea L. Bridgeman, a winner of the 2011 Local Bar Leader of the Year Award; Judge James W. Benton, retired of the Virginia Court of Appeals; and Maureen K. Petrini, director of access to legal services for the VSB, reunite at the Lawyers Expo.

3: Ruth Kirui and Thomas K. Kirui took first place for a third year in the 5K Run in the Sun event sponsored by Virginia Lawyers Media and the VSB Young Lawyers Conference. Thomas practices with Kirui Law Firm in Arlington and is a judge advocate with the U.S. Army Reserves. Ruth, Thomas’s fiancée, is a software engineer whose running is coached by Thomas.

4: Participants in the Ninth Annual Tennis Tournament sponsored by MichieHamlett.

5: Participants in the Twenty-seventh Annual David T. Stitt Memorial Volleyball Tournament sponsored by Fidelity National Title Group and the VSB Young Lawyers Conference

6: Jeannie P. Dahnk, a Fredericksburg lawyer and former Virginia State Bar president, led the Family Bingo sponsored by her law firm, Glover & Dahnk.