

74th Annual Meeting Virginia Beach June 14–17, 2012

The Virginia State Bar’s Seventy-fourth Annual Meeting blew into Virginia Beach on brisk ocean breezes. W. David Harless was sworn in as president of the VSB, succeeding George Warren Shanks. Sharon D. Nelson became president-elect.

A highlight was the second of what will probably become the annual “Judiciary Squares” CLE, sponsored by the Young Lawyers Conference. The “squares”—Honorable all—were Jane Roush, Robert W. Wooldridge, S. Bernard Goodwyn, Angela E. Roberts, Cleo Powell, B. Waugh Crigler, Rossie D. Alston Jr. and his dummy, Deborah S. Roe, and Robert J. Humpreys.

More than 300 lawyers attended this CLE, which is modeled on the old Hollywood Squares show, and watched the contestants—usually—get the answers right.

The day was packed with events and CLEs on everything from antitrust to trusts. Seminars included construction law/local government law, criminal law, health law/general practice, litigation, real property/taxation, administrative/environment, bankruptcy law, and family law.

The Virginia Legal Aid Award Luncheon featured, for the first time in the 20-year history of the event, two recipients—R. Peyton Whiteley and Abigail Turner. As Justice William Mims pointed out in his opening remarks at the luncheon, Whiteley and Turner both lived their lives as if they had taken to heart the words from Micah 6:8: “And what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?”

Later on Friday was the first Diversity Conference annual meeting. Clarence M. Dunnville Jr. became the first recipient of the conference’s award, which will be named in his honor. He accepted the award and joked that, “I’m not dead yet.”



The speaker there was former Justice John Charles Thomas, who harkened back to his early career as a newsman to present the who, what, when, where, why, and how of “diversity.” He allowed that our society has come a long way, but we can’t rest. “We could lose this,” he warned.

Events at the annual meeting included multiple award ceremonies, the Council Reception and Dinner, the Friday night President’s Reception and Annual Banquet, the Lawyer’s Expo, a raffle for a free trip to the Midyear Seminar in Rome and, of course, bingo.

1. W. David Harless (center) is the 74th VSB president, succeeding George Warren Shanks. Sharon D. Nelson was sworn in as president-elect and will become the president next year.

2. Edward L. Weiner (left) and President-elect Sharon D. Nelson presented the Tradition of Excellence Award to William L. Schmidt during the General Session on Saturday morning. The award is sponsored by the General Practice Section.

3. In keeping with a nineteen-year tradition, Executive Director Karen A. Gould presents outgoing President George Warren Shanks with a caricature by Michael L. Goodman, a Glen Allen lawyer and cartoonist.

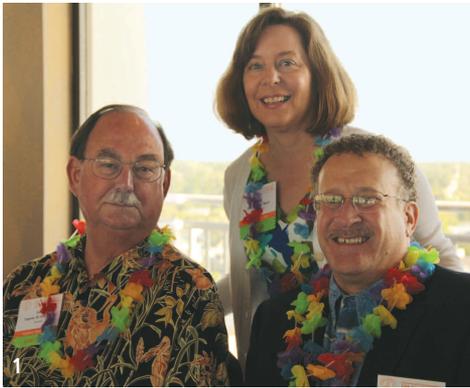
4. Christy E. Kiely (right) handed off the presidency of the Young Lawyers Conference to Brian R. Charville.



1. The Senior Lawyers Conference recognized more than 150 lawyers who had been members of the VSB for fifty years. Two dozen posed for a group picture at the General Session.
2. Michael HuYoung, chair of the Diversity Conference, presented the inaugural Diversity Conference Award to Clarence M. Dunnville Jr., for whom the award will be named.
3. R. Peyton Whiteley (left) and Abigail Turner each received the Virginia Legal Aid Award at a luncheon hosted by the Special Committee on Access to Legal Services. The awards were presented by President Shanks.
4. Special Ethics Program speaker Michael H. Rubin with Kevin Edward Martingayle, VSB executive committee member and chair of the Better Annual Meeting (BAM) Committee.



74th Annual Meeting



1. Eugene M. Elliot (left), Nancy M. Reed and Edward L. Weiner joined in the festivities at the Conference of Local Bar Associations annual meeting and breakfast. The CLBA handed out fifteen Awards of Merit and Certificates of Achievement.

2. Judge Rossie D. Alston Jr., of the Virginia Court of Appeals, and his alter-ego Little Bro, were among the “celebrities” who participated in the Judiciary Squares – Civil Procedure Edition CLE program sponsored by the Young Lawyers Conference.

3. W. David Harless was sworn in as the 2012-13 VSB president as his wife, Debbe, held the Bible that Harless’s mother gave him when he graduated from high school.

4. Virginia Supreme Court Justice William C. Mims gave the keynote address at the Virginia Legal Aid Award Luncheon in the Orion’s Roof dining room on Friday.

5. The Annual Meeting was packed with CLE programs, including this one Friday by the Litigation Section titled “Demise of the Civil Jury Trial: Change for the Better?”

6. Newly sworn-in President W. David Harless was surrounded by his bow-tied University of Virginia Law School classmates, class of 1981, after the Friday night banquet. They are (from left) Matthew L. Jacobs, John A. Anderson, the Honorable Michael Urbanski, William R. Van Buren III, T. Mark Flanagan Jr., Terence Murphy, and Steve Pearson.



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1. Among those leaving the Council were left to right (first row): Jean K. Niebauer, Michael HuYoung, Andrea L. Bridgeman, Christy E. Kiely, Irving M. Blank, and (back row): Hugh T. Antrim, George Warren Shanks, Patrick B. McDermott, Wayne R. Hairfield, Robert L. Calhoun.
2. Douglas R. Burtch, of Richmond, blew away the field in the Thirty-first Annual Run in the Sun 5K, while his family cheered him on. They are, (from left), Addison, Douglas, Zachary, Jennifer, and Wesley.
3. The Lawyers Expo, sponsored by the VSB General Practice Section, featured law office products and services, a book signing, margaritas, popcorn, and a lot of balloons.
4. Outgoing President George Warren Shanks presented the VSB with a painting done by his daughter, Cindy.
5. Participants in the Tenth Annual Tennis Tournament — Ronald Tweel, Jonathan Joseph, Erica Sartwell, Todd Sartwell, Michelle Harman, and Dan Gray — enjoyed sunny skies and very refreshing breezes.
6. Athletic activities include golf, volleyball, and early morning yoga by the sea.

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