



ATTENDANCE WAS UP and so was the temperature, both inside and outside, at the Virginia State Bar's Annual Meeting in Virginia Beach. The outside heat, with temperatures well into the 90s on Wednesday and Thursday, was thanks to the weather. The inside heat was provided by attorney general candidates Mark R. Herring and Mark D. Obenshain who met in their first debate since winning their party's nominations.

The annual meeting, June 13–15, was the 75th for the bar, and the jury is out on whether it will be the last held at the Cavalier Hotel. The annual meeting has been there for thirty-five years, but the hotel has been sold and it is unclear whether it will be available next year.

This year, Sharon D. Nelson was sworn in as president, succeeding W. David Harless. Kevin E. Martingayle became president-elect.

Three special programs were a big draw. More than 300 people turned out for the Showcase CLE on "Cocktail Party Advice: How to Answer Basic Legal Questions from Friends, Neighbors, Clients and Partners," sponsored by the Senior Lawyers Conference. The attendees were handed a list of fifty theoretical situations or questions that might come up in informal situations. The panel spoke to about a quarter of them, and distributed answers to the rest.

Friday's special forum on "Diversity and the Rule of Law: Complementary or Contradictory?" also drew an overflow crowd and generated plenty of friction. Roger Clegg, president of the Center for Equal Opportunity, argued that programs to promote racial and ethnic preferences and diversity are discriminatory. Jonathan R. Alger, president of James Madison University, and Freeman A. Hrabowski, president of the University



1. The Original Cavalier Hotel was the site for the annual Reception on the Hill. It remains to be seen whether the bar will have its annual meeting at the Cavalier next year. 2. Among those celebrating at the annual meeting were VSB President-elect Kevin E. Martingayle (left), President Sharon D. Nelson, and Past-president W. David Harless.

of Maryland — Baltimore County, took the opposite position. The forum was cosponsored by the VSB Diversity Conference and the Virginia Women Attorneys Association and moderated by the Honorable Barbara M. Keenan, U.S. Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Before the discussion began, the Diversity Conference gave its Clarence M. Dunnville Diversity Conference Award to Darrell Tillar Mason.

Saturday morning's debate between Democrat Herring and Republican Obenshain drew another large crowd. Both took aggressive postures and hammered home their well-established positions on so-called women's issues such as abortion and contraception, transportation funding, government regulations, guns, gay marriage, voter identification laws, privacy, and taxes. About the only thing the candidates agreed on was that

voters will have a stark choice to make this fall.

Sandwiched among the multiple CLEs, workshops, and business meetings, was a parade of award winners. They included the Rakes Leadership in Education Award, the Conference of Local Bar Associations awards of merit and two Local Bar Leaders of the Year Awards, the R. Edwin Burnette Jr. Award, the Access to Legal Services Award, the Tradition of Excellence Award, and eighty-eight Fifty-Year Awards.

Throw in the Council Reception and Dinner, the Friday night President's Reception and Annual Banquet, the Reception on the Hill, a slew of breakfasts and lunches, the Lawyers Expo, raffles for a television and a free trip to the Midyear Seminar in Paris, a sandcastle contest, and bingo, and a good time was had by all.



1. Eighty-eight Fifty-Year Award recipients were honored at a brunch Saturday morning. Thirty of the recipients attended.
2. Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Virginia Cynthia D. Kinser swore in Sharon D. Nelson as the 75th president of the VSB at the Friday night banquet.
3. W. Joseph Owen III of Midlothian was presented with the Tradition of Excellence Award by Mary L.C. Daniel.
4. Outgoing President W. David Harless received the traditional caricature portrait from VSB Executive Director Karen A. Gould at the Wednesday night Council Reception and Dinner.
5. Attending the Young Lawyers Conference luncheon meeting were outgoing president Brian R. Charville, his predecessor Christy E. Kiely, and incoming president Kenneth L. Alger II.
6. Receiving the second William R. Rakes Leadership in Education Award was W. Taylor Reveley III, president of the College of William & Mary (left). Also attending the award reception were W & M Law School Dean Davison M. Douglas; Washington & Lee Law School Professor and Education Section Chair A. Benjamin Spencer; W. Scott Street III, secretary and treasurer of the Virginia Board of Bar Examiners; and VSB President W. David Harless.
7. John R. Rellick, of Tappahannock, received the Virginia Legal Aid award from W. David Harless and Chief Justice Cynthia D. Kinser.



1. The debate at Friday's special forum on "Diversity and the Rule of Law: Complementary or Contradictory," cosponsored by the VSB Diversity Conference and the Virginia Women Attorneys Association, drew a large crowd. On the panel were Freeman A. Hrabowski, president of the University of Maryland-Baltimore County; Jonathan R. Alger, president of James Madison University; Roger Clegg, president of the Center for Equal Opportunity; and the Honorable Barbara M. Keenan, U.S. Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals.

2. Members attending their last Council meeting were honored at the Wednesday night reception. Among those attending were Edward L. Weiner, Margaret A. Nelson, Mark B. Holland, Ronald R. Tweel, George Warren Shanks, Peter C. Burnett, W. David Harless, and Mark D. Cummings.

3. Clarence M. Dunnville presented the award that bears his name, the Clarence M. Dunnville Diversity Achievement Award, to Darrel Tillar Mason.

4. The Hon. R. Edwin Burnette Jr. presented the award that bears his name to Young Lawyer of the Year Christopher R. Fortier at the Young Lawyers Conference reception.

5. Despite all the CLEs, breakfasts, brunches, lunches, dinners, receptions, and award ceremonies, there was time for recreation, including yoga by the sea Friday morning.



- 1&2. Attorney General candidates Democrat Mark R. Herring (left) and Mark D. Obenshain (right) made it clear to a large crowd who witnessed their first debate that they are very far apart on issues.
- 3. The Friday morning showcase CLE on Cocktail Party Advice featured Andrew M. Sacks (left), Carrollyn Charles Cox (obscured by podium), John M. Oakey Jr., Frank O. Brown Jr., and James F. Andrews.
- 4. The always-colorful Conference of Local Bar Associations annual meeting and breakfast featured the winners of the Local Bar Leader of the Year Awards, Polly Chong, (left) and Lori D. Thompson. The awards were presented by W. David Harless and CLBA Chair P. George Eliades II.
- 5. Bingo is always a big draw. This year's callers were former VSB President Jeannie P. Dahnk and her son, Ethan M. (Max) Dahnk.



1. The inaugural Chappell-Morris awards were presented Saturday morning. The Virginia Fellows of the American College of Trial Lawyers presented the awards to Robyn P. Ayers, Zachary T. Lee, Jon Allon Nichols Jr., and Robert E. Travers IV. Presenting the awards were David W. Scott, past president of the American College of Trial Lawyers, and Glenn W. Pulley, Virginia chair of the organization.

2. VSB President W. David Harless presented two special, and surprise, awards during the Council dinner Wednesday night. A photo of the third meeting of the Virginia State Bar Association has been restored by The Library of Virginia in the name of Lucia Anna "Pia" Trigiani, former president of the Virginia Bar Association. British General Charles Cornwallis's handwritten parole document, delivered to General George Washington following the Yorktown surrender, has been restored by the Library in the name of Jack L. Harris, longtime executive director of the Virginia Trial Lawyers Association. The photo and document restorations were presented on behalf of the VSB in recognition of the support Trigiani and Harris have provided to the bar.

3. It was easy to tell at the Lawyers Expo when the CLEs or seminars ended. The Expo, which featured everything a well-appointed lawyer might need, from a small remote controlled helicopter to manually controlled pens and pencils, was a big hit.

4. The annual 5K Run in the Sun, sponsored by Virginia Lawyers Weekly, drew a crowd on a mercifully cool Friday morning.

VIRGINIA STATE BAR • 75TH ANNUAL MEETING