

Candidates Seek President-elect Endorsement

Statement of Candidacy of Raymond B. Benzinger

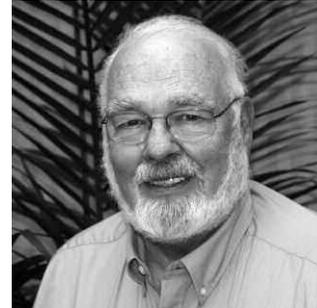
It is sometimes difficult to set down the goals of a candidate for president-elect of the Virginia State Bar because, if elected, I would assume the responsibility in June 2014. Many things could happen before then and the president must react to immediate concerns as they arise. Examples are the attempted hijack of our reserve fund or the legislature's failure to fund judicial vacancies.

However, my immediate and long-term goals are to modernize the bar's office procedures and make plans for converting to paperless record-keeping. Principal among my goals is to democratize the procedure for selecting members of the executive committee. Currently, the procedure has the features of a buddy system rather than an open selection process.

Also, the powers of the executive committee need to be redefined and it

may take amendments to the bylaws to accomplish that end. Right now the committee sometimes takes on the responsibility of making decisions in the absence of the VSB Council in session on matters that could have waited until the next council session. Council, after all, is the legislative and deliberative body of the bar. The decision to rebate bar dues, though undoubtedly happily received by bar members, could have waited until an opportunity to debate the issue in council. There have been several other similar actions by the executive committee.

At 74 years old, I am winding down this law practice of over forty years and hope to be the first full-time president of the Virginia State Bar.



Benzinger is a graduate of Georgetown University Law School and also has an LLM from Georgetown. He is a member of the VSB Council. He has been the recipient of honors for his public service and service to the bar, and has been awarded the James Keith Public Service Award from the Fairfax County Bar Association. He is married and has three children and seven grandchildren.

Statement of Candidacy of Kevin E. Martingayle

Most Virginia lawyers recall vividly the hardships of a statewide freeze on filling vacant judicial positions, and a budget proposal to take millions of dollars from Virginia State Bar funds. I remember attending the VSB annual meeting banquet in June, 2010, and listening to the newly-installed president at that time, Irving M. Blank, explain that he did not have any particular agenda. He was planning to stay the course and keep the VSB on track. President Blank could not have foreseen the crises that erupted during his tenure as president. I worked alongside Irv and many other members of the bar to protect the judicial branch and our profession. Fortunately, we prevailed, for now. But we have much to protect, and room for improvement.

The lawyer elected president needs to be ready, willing, and able to handle crises and emergencies. With the benefit

of having participated in the judicial vacancy and budget battles, and with two decades of experience handling a wide variety of litigation and appeals, I have the background, energy, and skills necessary to represent the VSB in addressing any challenges that may come our way.

Other goals and priorities I have for the VSB include: advocating for increased funding for judges, court clerks and VSB staff; increasing communication and strengthening ties between the bar and the court clerks' offices; seeking new ways to prevent attorney disciplinary violations before they occur; and continuing the enhancement of the VSB's assistance to and communications with the Supreme Court of Virginia.



Martingayle is a graduate of Hampden-Sydney College with a BS in Economics. His law degree is from the University of Virginia Law School. He is an owner and partner of Bischoff Martingayle PC. He is chair of the Better Annual Meeting Committee and is on the Executive, Budget and Finance, and Legal Ethics committees. He is married to Elisabeth Martingayle and has three children.