

## Former VSB President Irving M. Blank Named Leader of the Year

Former Virginia State Bar President Irving M. Blank has been elected *Virginia Lawyers Weekly's* "Leader of the Year."

He was chosen by the 31 members of the "Leaders in the Law" of 2011. Blank is the immediate past-president of the Bar.

Blank, a partner in the Richmond law firm of ParisBlank LLP, noted that his biggest personal accomplishment as a lawyer "was being president of the Virginia State Bar." His tenure was marked by the battle to restore funding for judicial vacancies. He also led the arguments against transferring \$5 million of VSB dues money to the General Fund of the commonwealth. During his

tenure, the VSB reduced the dues of members by 10 percent, transferred \$100,000 into the Clients' Protection Fund, and instituted online dues payments and permanent ID cards for our members.

Blank is a Danville native who earned his undergraduate degree from Virginia Tech and his law degree from the University of Richmond.

In the "Leaders in the Law" magazine, Blank noted that his most important mentor was J. Alvernon Smith Jr. and that, "I do not like and almost never consume soft drinks."

Also among the "Leaders in the Law" class of 2011 was former VSB President Jon D. Huddleston.



## Italian American Group Honors Trigiani

The Italian American Business and Professional Societa has named Virginia Bar Association President Lucia Anna "Pia" Trigiani to its Hall of Fame. The Societa is a Richmond business group dedicated to promoting relationships between Italian American-owned or related businesses and other companies.

Every five years the organization acknowledges the outstanding contributions made by Italian Americans who live and work in the Richmond area.

Trigiani, a second-generation Italian, was recognized for her work in the legal field.

Trigiani, a principal in the law firm MercerTrigiani, practices community association law in Richmond and Northern Virginia. In addition to serving as VBA president, she is the chair of the Virginia Common Interest Community Board.

Trigiani was honored at the Societa's awards dinner held at the Richmond Country Club on Sept. 22.

## Library Association Receives National Award

The Virginia Association of Law Libraries was recognized at a recent annual meeting of the American Association of Law Libraries for its partnership with *Virginia Lawyer* when it received an Excellence in Marketing Award.

The VALL was honored for placing articles on legal research in each issue of *Virginia Lawyer* and for the one issue per year that is devoted exclusively to the topic of legal information.

Contributors to *Virginia Lawyer* have included law librarians from major firms in Virginia, law schools in the state, the courts, and state and local governments.

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### Virginia State Bar Harry L. Carrico Professionalism Course

See dates and registration information at <http://www.vsb.org>.

## Writing Competition Winner Honored

Christopher Reaves, a 2011 graduate of the George Washington University Law School, was recognized for his first-place paper in the 2011 Intellectual Property Law Student Writing Competition, sponsored by the Virginia State Bar's Intellectual Property Section. The award was presented to Reaves by the Honorable Richard Linn, Circuit Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, at the Intellectual Property Section's 23rd Annual Fall CLE Weekend Seminar. In addition to the plaque, Reaves received a \$4,000 prize.

The Intellectual Property Law Student Writing Competition promotes academic debate and the dissemination of ideas and scholarly writing on topics relevant to attorneys in the field of intellectual property. The competition is open to students at any Virginia law



school, or residents of Virginia who are students at a law school outside the state.

Reaves' paper, "Whose Tube? YouTube's Rights, Liabilities, and

Incentives Under 17 U.S.C. § 512," can be read at <http://www.vsb.org/docs/sections/intellect/Reaves-Christopher-Writing-Competition.pdf>.

## In Memoriam

**Robert W. Ahrens**

Deltaville, Virginia

April 1935–September 2011

**Bobbie Jane Denny**

Fairfax, Virginia

November 1947–July 2011

**Joseph Mark Fitzpatrick**

New York, New York

May 1925–July 2011

**Gary A. Hall**

New York, New York

October 1943–May 2011

**Thurman Hill Jr.**

Springfield, Virginia

January 1922–March 2011

**Franklin D. Hochholzer**

Copenhagen, Denmark

March 1937–July 2011

**John Yates Merrell**

Fairfax, Virginia

February 1918–May 2011

**Lionel Richmond**

Scottsdale, Arizona

October 1924–June 2011

## "Spare the Child" Earns Video Honor

Virginia State Bar Graphic Designer Madonna G. Dersch has won a national award for public relations work on the "Spare the Child" program.

The Fastcase Luminary Award for Excellence in Public Relations from the National Association of Bar Executives was presented at the organization's Communications Section meeting in Nashville, Tennessee, in October.

Funded by a grant from the Virginia Law Foundation, the "Spare the Child" program is a project of the VSB Family Law Section. It seeks to educate the public to better understand and navigate the process of family dissolution in order to protect children. The "Spare the Child" video is online at <http://www.vsb.org/site/publications/video>. Pamphlets in English and Spanish will be available in early 2012.