

The Challenge of the New Millennium

by Stephen E. Noona

What an exciting time to practice law! We have gone from a world that once valued sticks and bricks alone to a world where value, at times, turns on ideas alone. To meet this challenge, Virginia lawyers need to equip themselves with modern tools to protect their clients' valuable ideas and intellectual property. This edition contains a sampling of the recent specialization that has revolutionized the practice of intellectual property and technology law and has sparked the growth of the Virginia State Bar's intellectual property section.

The VSB IP section, now more than 1,400 strong, has dedicated the last few years to being the education section. The section has featured annual spring, summer and fall seminars focusing on cutting edge intellectual property law issues and has partnered with other sections to highlight the far reaching nature and interaction of intellectual property law issues with all facets of the legal profession. The section has also put the profits from its educational efforts to good use, underwriting such notable causes as placing part of the state's disciplinary system online to make it accessible to all by computer.

From PARMESAN® Cheese and geographical indications to online music wars, from acquisitions and mergers to pure business method patents, intellectual property law issues permeate all aspects of the legal profession. We hope that you will take the time to read and enjoy this edition's articles and, with any luck, join our growing and vibrant section.



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