

## Hail and Farewell!

### Frank O. Brown, Jr., 2001–2002 Senior Lawyers Conference Chair

This is my last column as Senior Lawyers Conference chair. The next column that you read will be written by our new chair, Colin (“Cal”) J.S. Thomas, Jr., of Staunton (25). (The number after each name indicates the judicial circuit.) The other new officers are: Patricia A. Barton, chair-elect (19); William Brice Smith, first vice chair (2); Clarence M. Dunnaville, Jr., second vice chair (13); G. Marshall Mundy, treasurer (23); R. Hunter Manson, III, secretary (15). Other members of the board of governors are shown to the right. We bid a fond farewell to departing board members Benjamin R. Gardner, William J. Kinnamon, Jr., and Thomas J. Michie, Jr. We bid an especial farewell to our esteemed *Senior Lawyer News* editor, Francis N. Crenshaw, who has retired; I will be taking Frank’s place as editor, with mighty aspirations of someday filling his shoes.

If you have questions, concerns or suggestions, please communicate them to any of the members of the board of governors.

The Senior Lawyers Conference, which in June 2002 had 7,721 members, had a successful year. We continued our core programs—including promoting civility and encouraging lawyers to protect their clients’ interests by planning for the lawyer’s own disability or death. Our Web site, [www.vsb.org/slc](http://www.vsb.org/slc), provides a wealth of resources for lawyers and the public. It is the online publication site of our *Senior Lawyer News*.

We developed strong working relationships with the Young Lawyers Conference and the Conference of Local Bar Associations. We will work on projects with them in the bar year 2002–2003. The Senior Lawyers Conference is the Virginia coordinating organization for National Health Care Decisions Week, in October 2002. We hope to provide education and assistance to the public, through local bar associations, about advance planning for health care decision-making. This is an important program for the public, in general, and for senior citizens, in particular.

We will work with the Young Lawyers Conference on the revision and update of the *Senior Citizens Handbook*, an invaluable public resource—also available in Spanish.



Frank O. Brown, Jr., and Colin “Cal” J. S. Thomas, Jr.

At the Virginia State Bar annual meeting in June 2002, we co-sponsored with the trusts and estates section and the general practice section, a CLE workshop, entitled “Retirement Planning For Lawyers.” In the spring of 2003, we will sponsor an expanded half-day retirement planning seminar for lawyers.

In conclusion, let me share with you the experience of a golden day. Saturday, June 15, 2002, was indeed a golden day at Virginia Beach. At State Bar annual meeting, Ben DiMuro, the new bar president, and Michael Glasser, the immediate-past president of the bar, presented awards to lawyers who completed 50 years of bar membership. As I watched these deans of the senior lawyers come forward to receive their plaques and to be photographed, I was touched by the respect and affection shown by the two young bar presidents, neither of whom were alive when the honored guests began practicing law. Ben DiMuro and Michael Glasser recognized and congratulated these lawyers, who, for more than half a century, have been leaders in our profession, have been our mentors and role models and have served our communities well.

Later in the day, following the awards ceremony, the Senior Lawyers Conference hosted a luncheon for the 50-year award recipients. There were great camaraderie and conviviality at the luncheon. Old friends and new friends shared a delicious meal, seasoned with fond memories, good humor and spirited conversations. After the meal, a group photograph was taken and the guests slowly and reluctantly drifted apart. As I watched this proud recession of centuries of legal experience, it reminded me of the lines written by Robert Herrick more than three centuries ago:

“Praise they that will times past, I joy to see  
Myself now live: this age best pleaseth me.”

And I know that these distinguished professionals are best pleased by this golden age—at the recognition of their achievements. We must continue to call upon them as mentors to our profession. Thank you. 🍷

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2002–2003  
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