

Smith Wins Essay Competition

The first-place winner of the 2001 VSB Law in Society Award Competition, John Lucian "Luke" Smith III, was presented his award on August 22, 2001, in Norfolk.

Criterion for the competition is an essay in response to a hypothetical on a predetermined topic. This year's topic was zero tolerance of student possession of drugs and weapons. Three hundred entrants from high schools in Virginia participated in this year's contest, sponsored by the VSB Litigation Section. From the entries received, 10 winners (1st, 2nd, 3rd place and seven honorable mentions) were determined through two rounds of "blind" judging. Both panels of essay judges were comprised of VSB volunteers.



Smith is the son of United States District Judge Rebecca Beach Smith, of Norfolk, and the late John L. "Jack" Smith, Jr., who was a VSB member. Luke is a graduate of Norfolk Academy and attends Harvard College. His essay can be found at <http://www.vsb.org/publications/lawinsociety/winners01.html#essay>.

Oliver W. Hill Receives Courageous Advocacy Award

Oliver W. Hill, of Richmond, was presented the prestigious Award for Courageous Advocacy from the American College of Trial Lawyers at a special ceremony at its recent meeting in Boca Raton, FL.

Hill was only the twelfth person to receive this internationally recognized award in the 37 years since the award's inception.

For more than 60 years, Hill has been the preeminent lawyer engaged in civil rights litigation and criminal defense, seeking basic rights for all Americans. Some of the landmark cases in which he participated were the equalization of salaries for public school personnel; the right to serve on grand and petit juries; inclusion in the program of free bus transportation for public school children; equalization of public school facilities; the right of participation in primary elections; the elimination of segregation on common carriers; and the use of public places in a non-discriminatory and unsegregated fashion.

Hill's career has been highlighted by many citations and awards including the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1999. His nomination was supported by the VSB in a letter to the President, and his award was featured in the October 1999 *Virginia Lawyer*.

Founded in 1950, the American College of Trial Lawyers is an invitational legal association. Fellowship in the College is extended to trial lawyers in the United States, Canada and Great Britain who have mastered the art of advocacy and whose professional careers have been distinguished by high standards of ethical conduct, professionalism and civility.

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VIRGINIA STATE BAR

VSB Young Lawyers Conference Receives National Recognition

On August 4, 2001, the Virginia State Bar's Young Lawyer's conference won three achievement awards at the American Bar Association's annual meeting in Chicago.

The YLC won 1st place for its newsletter, *Docket Call*, and for its Professional Development Conference, held for the first time March 9 and 10 at the University of Virginia's Darden School of Business in Charlottesville. Topics included achieving partnership in a law firm, managing law school debt, marketing legal services and malpractice avoidance.

The YLC received special recognition for its programming and events throughout the bar year and for its Peer Mediation Project. The YLC joined with existing peer mediation programs at James Madison High School, in Vienna, and George Washington Middle School, in Alexandria, to help students become certified in settling disputes among peers. The YLC hopes to expand this program into the Roanoke area next year.

"The YLC is pleased that the ABA has recognized Virginia young lawyers nationally for their outstanding work and service to the bar and public," said VSB YLC President O'Kelly E. McWilliams, III. "However, the YLC will not rest on last year's accomplishments. With this success, we gain valuable momentum for the new bar year."

The Young Lawyers Conference focuses its efforts on the special interests and concerns of young and new lawyers and on public service projects. All active and associate VSB members in good standing, age 36 and under, as well as those members admitted to the VSB as their initial bar for fewer than three years, are automatically members of the YLC.

Planned Giving an Effective Means of Promoting Legal Programs in Virginia

VSB President-elect Bernard J. DiMuro and his wife, Sandy, have designated 10% of their estate to the Virginia Law Foundation. DiMuro is the first Virginia attorney to make a gift of this kind to the VLF, according to VLF Executive Director Sharon Tatum.

DiMuro said he wanted to make a law-related donation to an entity with the ability to administer the funds effectively.

"I thought it would be a good idea to create my own grant because the Virginia Law Foundation cuts across all areas that are important to me: legal service to the poor, improvement in the administration of justice, and educating the public about the law," DiMuro said. "When you look at the list of 36 grants the VLF has given this year, the grants cross the spectrum of all these categories. It gives to grassroots organizations that can most effectively use the funds."

Furthermore, the VLF does not carry heavy administrative costs, he said.

The VLF awards seed money to fledgling organizations in local communities where a need has already been targeted and where groups lack the money to get started.

"By funding these organizations in their formative years—the VLF provides up to three years' support—community involvement and support usually increases until the program becomes self-sustaining," Tatum said. "Because locally developed programs are targeted to the special needs of its residents, they can be more effective than statewide or national programs that meet a broader need."

DiMuro encourages other attorneys to consider such gift-giving. He says that private attorneys need to give back to their communities, to leave a legacy for themselves and their families.

"For many attorneys, including me, the best and only way to give is through an estate gift. You may not be able to give during your lifetime due to other financial responsibilities," DiMuro said.

The Virginia Law Foundation is the charitable arm of the legal profession in Virginia. It could be the most appropriate vehicle for Virginia lawyers to provide for the legal needs of low income Virginians, Tatum said.

"The impact of VLF-funded programs can be seen in the faces of families helped by a CASA volunteer; victims of domestic violence who have a new beginning; immigrants who receive help with immigration issues; parties to a dispute settled out of court through mediation; students learning about the law through interaction with lawyers and special trips to the Virginia and U.S. Supreme Courts, to name a few," she said.

The mission and grant programs of the VLF are listed on its Web site: www.virginialawfoundation.org.

VIRGINIA STATE BAR
YOUNG LAWYERS CONFERENCE
Professional Development Seminar

March 15–16, 2002

MCLE Hours approval pending
University of Virginia, Charlottesville



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At a special convening of the Alexandria Circuit Court on September 12, 2001, Dorothy Yancey of Alexandria, donated to the VSB a collection of photographs and historical information in tribute to her sister, Charlotte Nichols. Taken by Nichols and her friend Pansy Wiltshire, the photos are of Virginia courthouses and were intended for a book the two women were planning to write before Mrs. Nichols died, according to Yancey's attorney, Stephen A. Bamberger. VSB President-elect Bernard J. DiMuro, of Alexandria, accepted the collection on behalf of the bar, for use in various bar publications and presentations. The Honorable Donald Haddock presided.

Left to right: VSB President-elect Bernard DiMuro; Dorothy Yancey; Judge Haddock; Janette Langlier, friend of Yancey, and Stephen Bamberger.

Law Foundation Announces Grant Application Deadline

The Virginia Law Foundation, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, is now accepting Letters of Intent from organizations wishing to request grant support for the 2002-2003 grant cycle (July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003). Letters of Intent must be received in the Foundation's office no later than 3 P.M. on January 3, 2002.

Approximately \$500,000 will be awarded to support programs which promote or provide improvements in the administration of justice, legal services to the poor, education of the public about the law and the legal profession, and public service internships for Virginia law students.

Letters of Intent should be no more than three pages and should (1) state the applicant organization's name, tax exemption status, and FEIN; (2) briefly explain the organization's mission (3) describe the proposed project; and (4) summarize expense and income items for the total project, indicating the amount of funding requested from the Virginia Law Foundation. Letters of Intent should be forwarded to:

Virginia Law Foundation
701 E. Franklin St., Suite 708
Richmond, VA 23219

From the Letters of Intent received, the Foundation Grants Committee will select projects for which a fully developed proposal will be invited. For additional information about the grant process, please contact Sharon Tatum, Executive Director, at (804) 648-0112.

IN MEMORIAM

C. Paul Ake

Boca Raton, FL
January 1934-June 2001

Harry Eugene Atkinson

Newport News
February 1920-June 2001

Harry N. Babcock

Rocky River, OH
May 1928-March 2001

Philip Ward Basquin

Glendale, CA
November 1946-April 2001

Ellen Jeannette Case

Arlington
May 1968-April 2001

Nancey Michelmore Clarkson

Williamsburg
April 1939-May 2001

Rodney Gerald Crowgey

Christiansburg
February 1947-August 2001

JoAnn Kathryn Knight

Fort Washington, MD
June 1944-January 2000

Richard Allen Levy

Alexandria
March 1942-August 2001

Robert J. Lyons

Concord
September 1929-March 2001

Hubert A. Ruff

Rocky Mount
September 1946-August 2001

Philip William Savitz

Falls Church
May 1951-June 2001

Amy R. Templeton

Washington, D.C.
November 1956-November 2000

James M. Thomson

Summit Point, WV
August 1924-July 2001

R.C. Whittenberger

Springfield
February 1920-June 2001

Circuit Committees on the Resolution of Fee Disputes

The Virginia State Bar's fee dispute arbitration program offers an informal mechanism to bring a satisfactory and expeditious resolution to attorney-client fee disputes. Arbitration hearings are conducted on a voluntary basis, and judgements of the CCRFD panel are binding upon both parties. Currently, there are 12 CCRFDs established around the Commonwealth. These CCRFDs receive referrals from the State Bar. **CCRFDs are organized in the following judicial circuits:**

- Judicial Circuit 10 (Chair, Charlie G. Butts, Jr., Esq.)
- Judicial Circuit 11 (Chair, Denis J. McCarthy, Esq.)
- Judicial Circuit 13 (Chair, Anthony F. Troy, Esq.)
- Judicial Circuit 16 (Chair, Stephen K. Lewellyn, Esq.)
- Judicial Circuit 18 (Chair, Michael L. Zupan, Esq.)
- Judicial Circuit 19 (Chair, James A. Watson II, Esq.)
- Judicial Circuit 20 (Chair, Paul A. Maslakowski, Esq.)
- Judicial Circuit 23 (Chair, Frank W. Rogers, III, Esq.)
- Judicial Circuit 24 (Chair, Frank W. Morrison, Esq.)
- Judicial Circuit 27 (Chair, Alan D. Groseclose, Esq.)
- Judicial Circuit 28 (Chair, Ralph M. Dillow, Esq.)
- Judicial Circuit 31 (Chair, John D. Whittington, Esquire)

The Virginia State Bar provides arbitration training for new CCRFD members. Barbara O. Allen, VSB Director of Local & Specialty Bars and Virginia Lawyer Referral Service, offers administrative assistance to the CCRFDs, but each circuit committee conducts business independently. Fee dispute arbitration rules and guidelines, referral to a CCRFD, information on creating a CCRFD for your circuit, and training videos are available by contacting Barbara Allen at (804) 775-0590. If you are interested in sitting on an existing CCRFD, please contact Barbara Allen.

A copy of the rules and guidelines are available at the Virginia State Bar Web site (www.vsb.org/feedisputes.html).

“You have rights. Lawyers protect them. Virginia State Bar.”

Posters of the VSB's award-winning advertising campaign are still available. The state-wide public education campaign was developed to raise awareness of the value of the legal profession among Virginia's citizens.

To obtain a set for your office or waiting room, contact Jennifer Sparger: phone (804) 775-0586, fax (804) 775-0582, e-mail sparger@vsb.org.

