Norfolk Attorney Named President-Elect of Virginia State Bar

Howard M. Martin Jr. of Norfolk has become president-elect of the Virginia State Bar. He will serve in the position for a year, then will become president for the 2007–2008 fiscal year, succeeding Karen A. Gould.

Martin ran unopposed for the seat.

A native of Norfolk, Martin practices with Crenshaw, Ware & Martin PLC, where he focuses on real estate, land use and zoning, and redevelopment law. He received his undergraduate degree from Washington and Lee University and his law degree from the University of Virginia. He served in the U.S. Navy for four years, with two years in the Judge Advocate General Corps, before returning to Norfolk to practice.

He is a past president of the Norfolk and Portsmouth Bar Association. He has served on the VSB executive committee since 2003.

He also was chair of the Second District Committee, which hears lawyer discipline cases in Virginia Beach and Norfolk, and he chaired the rules subcommittee of the VSB Committee on Lawyer Discipline.

He also served on the executive committee of the VSB Conference of Local Bar Associations.

Martin has served as a member and treasurer of The Virginia Bar Association’s executive committee. He is a fellow and past president of the Virginia Law Foundation and a fellow of the American Bar Foundation.

He has served on the Norfolk board of the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce and as administrative board chair of Ghent United Methodist Church.

Martin is married to Heather Laird Martin. They have three children and a grandchild.

Chabalewski Is New VSB Counsel

George W. Chabalewski, a former senior assistant Virginia attorney general, has been named the new Virginia State Bar counsel. He began the job June 16, after his hiring was approved by the VSB Council.

During nineteen years at the AG’s office, he defended the VSB in civil litigation, disciplinary and unauthorized practice of law matters. He also defended the state in cases arising under the Tort Claims Act and at common law.

Prior to joining the Virginia attorney general’s office in 1987, Chabalewski was, during a ten-year period, an assistant states attorney, assistant public defender and public defender in Illinois.

He graduated from DePaul University and received his law degree from the John Marshall Law School in Chicago.

He succeeds Barbara Ann Williams as bar counsel. She resigned in January to return to private practice at McGuireWoods in Richmond after serving eight years.

VSB Executive Director Thomas A. Edmonds said, “Our search committee and human resources director spent a great deal of time reviewing resumes, conducting preliminary interviews with seven well qualified individuals, and meeting at length with three finalists for the position. I am satisfied we have identified exactly the right person to serve as our next bar counsel and lead our professional regulation efforts, and I know from his background and temperament that George will get off to a fast start and keep our disciplinary system functioning optimally.”

VSB President Karen A. Gould described Chabalewski as “articulate, intelligent, organized and motivated. George brings a wealth of experience to the position as a skilled litigator. I feel certain that he will handle the demands of the position with vigor and diplomacy . . . . George’s zest for the challenges of the position, as well as his other attributes, made him the ideal choice.”
IN MEMORIAM

Alfred Bernard III
Norfolk
September 1940–November 2005

Mark Christopher Brocki
Charlottesville
July 1959–May 2005

Miles J. Brown
Annandale
February 1928–March 2005

The Honorable Joseph H. Campbell
Norfolk
February 1929–December 2005

John Francis Carman
Vienna
December 1931–March 2006

Richard A. Cohan
Charlotte, North Carolina
July 1923–July 2005

William P. Currier Jr.
Charlotte, North Carolina
January 1926–December 2005

G.D. Faulkner
Mechanicsville
December 1929–December 2005

Andre Allen Foreman
Norfolk
November 1947–April 2006

Byron E. Fox
Manakin-Sabot
January 1931–December 2005

E. William Fox Jr.
McLean
July 1944–January 2006

Thomas J. Freaney Jr.
Alexandria
January 1915–January 2006

David Brent Garland
Charlottesville
February 1943–April 2006

The Honorable Quinlan J. Hancock
Fairfax Station
April 1926–March 2006

L. W. Hiner
Richmond
April 1919–March 2006

Andrew David Kaufmann
Reston
December 1948–January 2006

Carr Lanier Kinder III
Richmond
June 1967–December 2005

Francis Xavier Lillis
Vienna
May 1932–May 2006

The Honorable Jack M. Matthews
Galax
September 1904–July 2002

Conard B. Mattox III
Richmond
November 1948–March 2006

Louis Leonard Meier Jr.
Bethesda, Maryland
October 1918–February 2006

Marcus D. Minton
Petersburg
February 1944–December 2005

Nathaniel S. Newman
Richmond
December 1922–March 2006

Robert Lee Polk
Clifton
June 1940–January 2006

Clarence F. Rhea
Gadsden, Alabama
August 1921–December 2005

The Honorable Ralph B. Robertson
Richmond
September 1943–March 2006

Stephen Graham White
Petersburg
January 1932–October 2005

Jack I. Wilkerson
Richmond
November 1919–October 2005

Virginia Law Foundation Accepting Nominations for Fellows Class of 2007

Nominations for the 2007 Class of Virginia Law Foundation Fellows will be accepted through September 11, 2006. The 2007 Class will be inducted at a dinner meeting in Williamsburg on January 18, 2007 during the Virginia Bar Association’s Annual Meeting.

Candidates must (1) be an active or associate member of the Virginia State Bar for at least ten years; (2) be a resident of Virginia; (3) be a person of integrity and character; (4) have maintained and upheld the highest standards of the profession; (5) be outstanding in the community; and (6) be distinguished in the practice of law. Retired and senior status judges are eligible. Sitting full-time judges and constitutional office holders are not eligible during their tenures.

Nominations must be received by September 11 and should be submitted on a Nomination Form provided by the Virginia Law Foundation. To obtain a nomination form, please contact the Virginia Law Foundation at 700 East Main Street, Suite 1501, Richmond, VA 23219, phone (804) 648-0112, or by email at: mprichard@virginialawfoundation.org. To obtain a Nomination Form online, go to www.virginialawfoundation.org/FellNom_FormsPage.htm, and for a complete listing of current Fellows, please visit the Foundation’s website at www.virginialawfoundation.org.
Advanced Skills Seminar Held for Criminal Defense Lawyers

The Chief Justice’s 2006 seminar for seasoned criminal defense lawyers who take court-appointed cases drew 450 attorneys to Richmond and 100 to Abingdon on April 7.

The program, “Indigent Criminal Defense: Advanced Skills for the Experienced Practitioner,” featured national and state experts who spoke on topics that included false confessions, detecting laboratory error, judgment and impulse control in the developing brain and a U.S. Supreme Court update.

The program took place at the Richmond Convention Center and by live teleconference at the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center in Abingdon.

Among the speakers was Jeffrey P. Robinson, who practices with Schroeter, Goldmark & Bender in Seattle, Washington. He used examples from songs and movies to describe storytelling techniques that can be used in trials.

Vanita Gupta, staff attorney for the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund Inc., was the luncheon speaker. She is known for leading a legal challenge in Tulia, Texas, where one-tenth of the black population was arrested in 1999 on drug charges based on information from an undercover agent with a dubious history. Eventually, all forty-six convictions were overturned.

The seminar is the second sponsored by the Chief Justice and the Virginia State Bar to provide free, high-quality continuing legal education to lawyers who defend the poor in criminal cases.

Top: Chief Justice Leroy R. Hassell Sr. (left) and Jeffrey P. Robinson.

Bottom: Vanita Gupta with Judge Walter S. Felton Jr. of the Virginia Court of Appeals. Felton served on the committee that organized the program.

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The fourth in a series of Solo & Small-Firm Forums and Town Hall Meetings was held May 2 in Danville. The forum is Chief Justice Leroy R. Hassell Sr.’s program to provide continuing legal education on law office management to attorneys throughout the state. The Danville Bar Association hosted a reception to welcome the Chief Justice and Virginia State Bar.

Photo 1: Members of the Danville Bar Association with their guests. L–R: M. Janet Palmer of Richmond, chair of the Conference of Local Bar Associations; W. Huntington “Hunter” Byrnes; Michael C. Guanzon; Chief Justice Leroy R. Hassell Sr.; Sandra T. Chinn-Gilstrap; David W. Pugh; and W. Clarke Whitfield Jr., president of the Danville Bar Association.

Photo 2: Delegate Robert Hurt, a lawyer-legislator who represents Chatham and practices law there, attended the Danville Forum.

Photo 3: Chief Deputy Attorney General William C. Mims, the luncheon speaker for the forum, talks with Justice Cynthia D. Kinser of the Supreme Court of Virginia. Kinser chaired the committee that developed the forum.

Photo 4: Phillip V. Anderson (left), 2005–2006 president of the Virginia State Bar, with Ed Walters, chief executive officer of Fastcase—the new online legal research service that the VSB now provides free to its members.
Frank Overton Brown Jr. of Richmond Wins the Tradition of Excellence Award

Frank Overton Brown Jr., a Richmond lawyer for three decades, is the nineteenth recipient of the Tradition of Excellence Award, presented annually by the Virginia State Bar's General Practice Section. The award was presented June 17 during the VSB's Annual Meeting in Virginia Beach.

The award recognizes a Virginia attorney who has dedicated time and effort to activities that assist the community, while improving the standing and image of general practice attorneys in the eyes of the public.

Brown was a founder and the first chair of the VSB Senior Lawyers Conference, which undertakes projects to help lawyers age fifty-five and older pass on their experience to younger lawyers, and to help society in general—particularly senior citizens. He continues to serve as newsletter editor for the conference.

Five years ago, Brown began a crusade to teach lawyers the importance of preparing for the orderly handling of their practices should they die or become disabled. From Abingdon to McLean to Williamsburg, Brown has stumped the state at his own expense with the message that good planning protects clients and the lawyer's own estate.

He was nominated for the Tradition of Excellence award by William T. Wilson, current chair of the Senior Lawyers Conference. "Frank is the backbone of the Senior Lawyers Conference and makes sure that the organization works as it should," Wilson wrote. "Frank is a person of high integrity and is a shining example to us all as to what civility and professionalism ought to be."

Brown was admitted to the Virginia bar in 1976, after receiving bachelor's, master's and law degrees from the University of Richmond. His practice concentrates on trust and estate matters. He has served as a commissioner in chancery for the Richmond Circuit Court, and he is author of *Virginia Probate Handbook*. He has chaired the Henrico County Strategic Plan Team, Planning Commission and Mental Health and Mental Retardation Services Board. He also has served on the boards of the Capital Area Agency on Aging and Housing Opportunities Made Equal, and has been an adjunct professor at the University of Richmond law school.

Attorney Frank W. Morrison of Lynchburg Recognized for Lifetime Achievement

Lynchburg attorney Frank West Morrison has won the 2006 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Virginia State Bar's Family Law Section. The award, presented June 16 during the bar's annual meeting in Virginia Beach, honors an individual who has made a substantial contribution to the practice and administration of family law in the commonwealth.

Morrison’s thirty-five years as a domestic relations attorney, his contributions to the development of mediation in Virginia and his extensive training of other lawyers were cited by Paul Whitehead Jr., a retired Lynchburg general district court judge who nominated him for the award.

Morrison was recognized for some of those accomplishments last year, when The Virginia Bar Association presented him with its Gardener G. DeMallie Jr. Continuing Legal Education Award. He is currently chair of the VBA's Domestic Relations Section.

He has been a partner in the firm Phillips, Morrison, Johnson & Ferrell since 1991. He has served as president of the VSB Young Lawyers Section; chair of the VSB Family Law Section; a substitute juvenile and domestic relations judge in the Lynchburg area; commissioner in chancery for the 24th Judicial District; president of the Lynchburg Bar Association; and chair of the VSB-VBA Joint Committee on Alternative Dispute Resolution. That committee gave him a “Founder of ADR” award in 2004.

Morrison also teaches negotiation and mediation at the law school at Washington and Lee University, from which he received his undergraduate and law degrees.
Christy E. Kiely of Richmond Wins Virginia State Bar’s Young Lawyer of the Year Award

Christy E. Kiely, an associate with Hunton & Williams in Richmond, has won the 2006 R. Edwin Burnette Jr. Young Lawyer of the Year Award from the Virginia State Bar’s Young Lawyers Conference. Named for a Lynchburg general district judge who served as president of the Young Lawyers Conference and the VSB, the award recognizes dedicated service to the conference, the profession and the community. It was presented June 16 during the VSB’s annual meeting in Virginia Beach.

Kiely has chaired several Young Lawyers Conference programs. She reorganized and reinvigorated the Students’ Day at the Capitol program, and she created a handbook to help future chairs. For several years, she chaired the committee that puts on the Admission & Orientation Ceremony, during which new lawyers are sworn in by the Supreme Court of Virginia.

This year Kiely also served as chair of the YLC’s Domestic Violence Safety Project Committee. The committee updated two pamphlets to reflect changes in the law, and translated the brochures into Spanish. Kiely then contacted hundreds of organizations around the state and received requests for nearly two hundred thousand brochures. Kiely also solicited feedback from domestic violence groups for use in planning future projects and educational events.

She also personally provided pro bono assistance to domestic violence victims through Hunton & Williams's Women’s Advocacy Project and to low-income individuals through Central Virginia Legal Aid. Each year since she began practicing, she has been recognized by her firm with the E. Randolph Williams Award for contributing more than one hundred hours of direct pro bono service in a year.

Keily holds a bachelor’s degree from the College of William & Mary and a law degree from Duke University. She practices labor and employment law.

Jill A. Hanken Wins the Virginia State Bar’s 2006 Legal Aid Award

Jill A. Hanken, a familiar face at the State Capitol for her advocacy on behalf of low-income people—particularly in the area of health law—received the 2006 Legal Aid Award from the Virginia State Bar’s Special Committee on Access to Legal Services. The award recognizes innovation and creativity in advocacy, experience and excellence in service, and impact beyond the winner’s service area. It was presented June 16 during the VSB’s annual meeting in Virginia Beach.

Hanken has spearheaded many efforts to promote and improve health insurance programs for low-income people, often by establishing coalitions with other organizations. “Many Virginians receive the health care they need as a direct result of Jill’s efforts over the years,” according to the nomination letter signed by several legal services lawyers.

She convinced the General Assembly to change income guidelines and other eligibility rules so that more pregnant women, children and disabled or aged adults could qualify for Medicaid. She helped develop Virginia’s new program that insures more children in low-income working families, and has since worked to simplify the application process and eliminate waiting periods and other barriers to enrollment.

She also successfully advocated amending the Administrative Process Act so that people who received denials for Medicaid and other public assistance can appeal to court.

Meanwhile, as a career legal services attorney with the Virginia Poverty Law Center, Hanken has argued many important and far-reaching cases on behalf of poor people, including one case in the U.S. Supreme Court. She regularly assists other advocates with their cases and provides training on Medicaid issues. “She is, quite simply, the best instructor on health care law in Virginia,” wrote Steven L. Myers of the Virginia Legal Aid Society.

In 1977 Hanken received her law degree from Boston College and began working with legal services in South Carolina. She joined the Virginia Poverty Law Center in Richmond in 1980. After two years as an administrative law judge for the Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services, she returned to the Poverty Law Center as a staff attorney specializing in health law.
George W. Dodge of Arlington and Carolyn M. Grimes of Alexandria Win the VSB’s Local Bar Leader of the Year Award

George W. Dodge of Arlington and Carolyn M. Grimes of Alexandria have won the Virginia State Bar’s Local Bar Leader of the Year award for 2006. The award, bestowed by the Conference of Local Bar Associations, recognizes dedication of local bar leaders who offer important service to the bench, bar and public and who work closely with the Virginia State Bar.

Dodge, a solo practitioner who focuses on elder and estate law, reinvigorated the Arlington Bar Association during his presidency in 2003–2004, and has continued his efforts since. To increase attendance, he brought luncheon meetings to the Arlington courthouse and invited celebrity speakers to dinner meetings. Dodge involved judges in bar functions and renewed the association’s role in providing continuing legal education courses. He took young lawyers to lunch at his own expense, to encourage them to become involved.

Dodge is currently president of the Arlington Historical Society. His book, Historic Images of Arlington National Cemetery, will be published in the fall. His efforts led to a display case installed in the courthouse lobby, where memorabilia of Arlington’s legal community are exhibited.

Dodge wrote the outline for and helped moderate Chief Justice Leroy R. Hassell Sr.’s December 2005 conference, “Reforming the Involuntary Commitment Process: A Multidisciplinary Effort.” He holds an undergraduate degree from the University of Richmond and a law degree and a master’s degree in history from George Mason University.

Arlington Bar members who nominated Dodge wrote: “Motivated by a rare personal dedication, George’s contributions to the bar far exceed the norm. Fortunately his commitment combines with unique creativity and social skills to generate novel approaches which have transformed and recharged the Arlington Bar.”

Grimes practices family law with Lieblich & Grimes PC in Alexandria, and she is immediate past president of the Alexandria Bar Association. Grimes became treasurer of the association when it was experiencing a fiscal crisis. Her management led to better accounting methods, sponsorships and revenue-producing continuing legal education programs that underwrote association program costs.

Under her leadership, the association launched a “Beat the Odds” program that helps children overcome academic and other obstacles and awards college scholarships and grants. The program raised more than fourteen thousand dollars last year to help in its mission.

Grimes also encourages Alexandria lawyers to do pro bono service and report their good works to The Virginia Bar Association’s Community Service Program. She currently is president of Legal Services of Northern Virginia, and she regularly volunteers to represent LSNV clients pro bono on family law matters.

She holds a bachelor’s degree from Johns Hopkins University and a law degree from George Mason University.

Grimes is “one of those rare individuals who can never say no, yet always follows through on her commitments—and then goes the extra mile,” according to the nomination letter submitted by three Northern Virginia attorneys and a retired judge.

The awards were presented on June 16, during the VSB annual meeting in Virginia Beach.

Visit the Virginia State Bar online at www.vsb.org.

Find information on MCLE, professional regulation, bar news, meetings and events, publications and more.