

## Highlights of the February 27, 2016, Virginia State Bar Council Meeting

At its meeting on February 27, 2016, in Richmond, the Virginia State Bar Council heard the following significant reports and took the following actions:

### Diversity Conference Request for Funding

By a vote of 68 to 6, the council approved funding for the Diversity Conference, which now will be included for approval

in the 2016–17 budget proposal to the Supreme Court of Virginia.

### Adoption of Amendments to the Judicial Candidate Evaluation Committee Policies

The council approved by unanimous vote proposed amendments to the JCEC policies. The amendments clarify procedures for evaluating judicial candidates.

They define the scope and criteria of the committee’s investigation. They also create a rebuttable presumption that a candidate who had previously been evaluated for an earlier judicial appointment by the committee merits at least the same rating in the new evaluation.

## Elizabeth K. Shoenfeld Named Assistant Bar Counsel

Elizabeth K. Shoenfeld joined the Virginia State Bar as an assistant bar counsel in August 2015. She is responsible for investigating and prosecuting misconduct complaints in Fairfax County and Prince William County, which are two of the busiest jurisdictions in the commonwealth.

Prior to joining the VSB, Shoenfeld spent twelve years as a litigator in private practice with law firms both large (Hunton & Williams) and small (Spencer Shuford). Although she had a varied practice, the bulk of her work

involved representing auto manufacturers in product liability cases. She has appeared in state and federal courts throughout Virginia, as well as at least ten other states.

Shoenfeld has a bachelor’s degree from the Pennsylvania State University, where she was Phi Beta Kappa and majored in political science, graduating *cum laude*. She received her law degree from William and Mary School of Law where she was a recipient of a graduate student fellowship.

Shoenfeld and her husband Eric have two daughters, ages six and three. In her free time she enjoys running (both after her children and in local races) and volunteering for her daughters’ schools.



## Christine Corey Joins VSB as Assistant Bar Counsel

The Virginia State bar has added Christine Corey as assistant bar counsel. She is responsible for prosecuting professional disciplinary cases in the first district and the second section of the second district, which include Virginia Beach, Newport News, Smithfield, Suffolk, Chesapeake, and Portsmouth.

Before joining the VSB, Corey worked as a family law litigator for the Richmond firms Deanna D. Cook PC and Barnes & Diehl where she handled matters including divorce, complicated equitable distribution, support, and protective orders.

Prior to coming to Richmond, Corey practiced family law and criminal law in Blacksburg and she also became qualified as a guardian ad litem. Immediately after law school, she worked as a prosecutor in Santa Rosa County, Florida, where she prosecuted misdemeanor offenses. She also spent two years clerking for the US District Court for the Northern District of Florida in Pensacola.

Corey received her bachelors in comparative international studies from the University of Washington and her law degree from Seattle University School

of Law. During law school she clerked for the Office of the Attorney General in the Tort Claims Division.

In her free time, Corey enjoys hiking, biking, skiing and spending time with her husband and three children.

