Supreme Court Exhibit Highlights the History of the VSB and VBA

The Supreme Court of Virginia has opened an exhibit titled “The Bar at Work: 125 Years of Building the Legal Profession in Virginia, 1888–2013” on the third floor of the Supreme Court building at 100 N. 9th St., across from the State Capitol.

This exhibit highlights the history of the Virginia Bar Association from its organization in 1888 and also commemorates the 75th anniversary of the Virginia State Bar.

The VSB was formed after the Virginia General Assembly authorized a mandatory, regulatory bar in 1938. The main issue before the bar then was the task of defining the practice of law.

Today, Virginia is one of only three states with a mandatory and a separate state-wide voluntary bar.

For 125 years, Virginia lawyers have exerted a profound influence on the development of the legal system in Virginia through their participation in bar associations. From 1890 to 1910, the bar led the way in raising the requirements for entry to the profession; however, it also created barriers for women, minorities, and foreign born attorneys that were not removed until the twentieth century.

Many of the items and documents displayed were culled from the Supreme Court of Virginia Archives, housed in the law library on the second floor.

The exhibit, which will run through at least August 2014, is open to the public, but people are asked to call the law library at (804) 786-2075 to make an appointment. Exhibit hours are 8:15–4:45 on weekdays.

* * *

To read a profile of Chief Justice Cynthia D. Kinser, and for an article on the Virginia State Bar and Virginia Bar Association, see the December issue of Virginia Living magazine.

Trees for Virginia

One of the premier projects of the VSB’s Senior Lawyers Conference is to continue the late John Tate’s plan to plant more trees in Virginia. In the last two years, the conference has planted more than 7,500 trees plus an Honor Tree in Capitol Square in Richmond for the late Chief Justice Leroy Hassell Sr.

Make your contribution to John M. Oakey, Treasurer, c/o McGuireWoods LLP, 901 E. Cary St., Richmond, VA 23219.

If you are aware of any person or organization that would like trees (they’re free), contract Bruce E. Robinson, bruce.robinsontr@gmail.com. Orders should be placed by January 3, 2014, and the trees will be delivered to be planted in late February or early March.

Save the Date

Virginia State Bar Young Lawyers Conference
12th Annual Celebration of Women and Minorities in the Legal Profession
Bench Bar Dinner

Honoring the newly elected and elevated women and minority member of the Virginia judiciary.

Keynote Speaker
Justice Elizabeth A. McClanahan

Monday, February 10, 2014
The Bull and Bear Club, Richmond

For more information visit www.vayounglawyers.com

Have You Moved?

To check or change your address of record with the Virginia State Bar, go to the VSB Member Login at https://member.vsb.org/vsbportal/. Go to “Membership Information,” where your current address of record is listed. To change, go to “Edit Official Address of Record,” click the appropriate box, then click “next.” You can type your new address, phone numbers, and email address on the form.

Contact the VSB Membership Department (membership@vsb.org or (804) 775-0530) with questions.