The VLF Celebrates Forty Years of Philanthropy

by James V. Meath, president of the Virginia Law Foundation, and Manuel A. Capsalis, immediate past-president of the Virginia Law Foundation

It is with great pride that we welcome you to this issue of Virginia Lawyer magazine. The Virginia State Bar has graciously dedicated the issue to the Virginia Law Foundation. We are thankful for this great honor.

The Virginia Law Foundation is the philanthropic arm of Virginia’s legal profession. It uses its endowment to fund worthy projects in three crucial areas: the rule of law, access to justice, and legal education. Next year the foundation celebrates forty years of philanthropic work. The organization has provided more than $23 million in grants during its history.

One of the components of the foundation is its Fellows Committee. There are more than 400 fellows of the Virginia Law Foundation, representing the top 1 percent of lawyers and retired judges in the commonwealth. These are men and women who have achieved excellence in the profession while demonstrating leadership and a selfless commitment to the betterment of their communities. The fellows of the Virginia Law Foundation are celebrating thirty years of leadership and commitment in 2014.
In the pages that follow, you will read about the philanthropic efforts of the foundation. We hope you will be struck by the good work that has been done by the funds that the foundation has provided to grantees. Lives have been changed, futures have been formed, and the commitment that our Founding Fathers made to justice for all has been furthered. That said, there is more need now than ever for the Virginia Law Foundation to raise funds and continue its philanthropic mission.

We hope that you enjoy this special issue of Virginia Lawyer and find the articles instructive and compelling. We also hope you agree that there is something very special about being a Virginia lawyer — a sense of history and of civic duty to the commonwealth and its people. Supporting the foundation’s philanthropic pursuits enables us to touch the lives of thousands of Virginians our individual good work could not possibly reach.

Members of the Virginia Law Foundation board gathered at the Virginia State Bar annual meeting in June. Pictured on page 29 are, standing (left to right): John D. Epps, president-elect; Raymond M. White, executive director; James V. Meath, president; G. Michael Pace Jr.; Irving M. Blank, vice president; Manuel A. Capsalis, immediate past president; William L. Schmidt; The Honorable Paul F. Sheridan; Yvonne C. McGhee, secretary; George Warren Shanks, Fellows Committee chair; Stanley G. Barr Jr.; J. Page Williams; David P. Bobzien, CLE chair; and F. Anderson Morse. Seated (left to right): John M. Oakey Jr.; Karen A. Gould, treasurer; Lucia Anna “Pia” Trigiani; Cynthia E. Hudson; and Angelica D. Light.