

Virginia Law Foundation

ANNUAL REPORT

2025



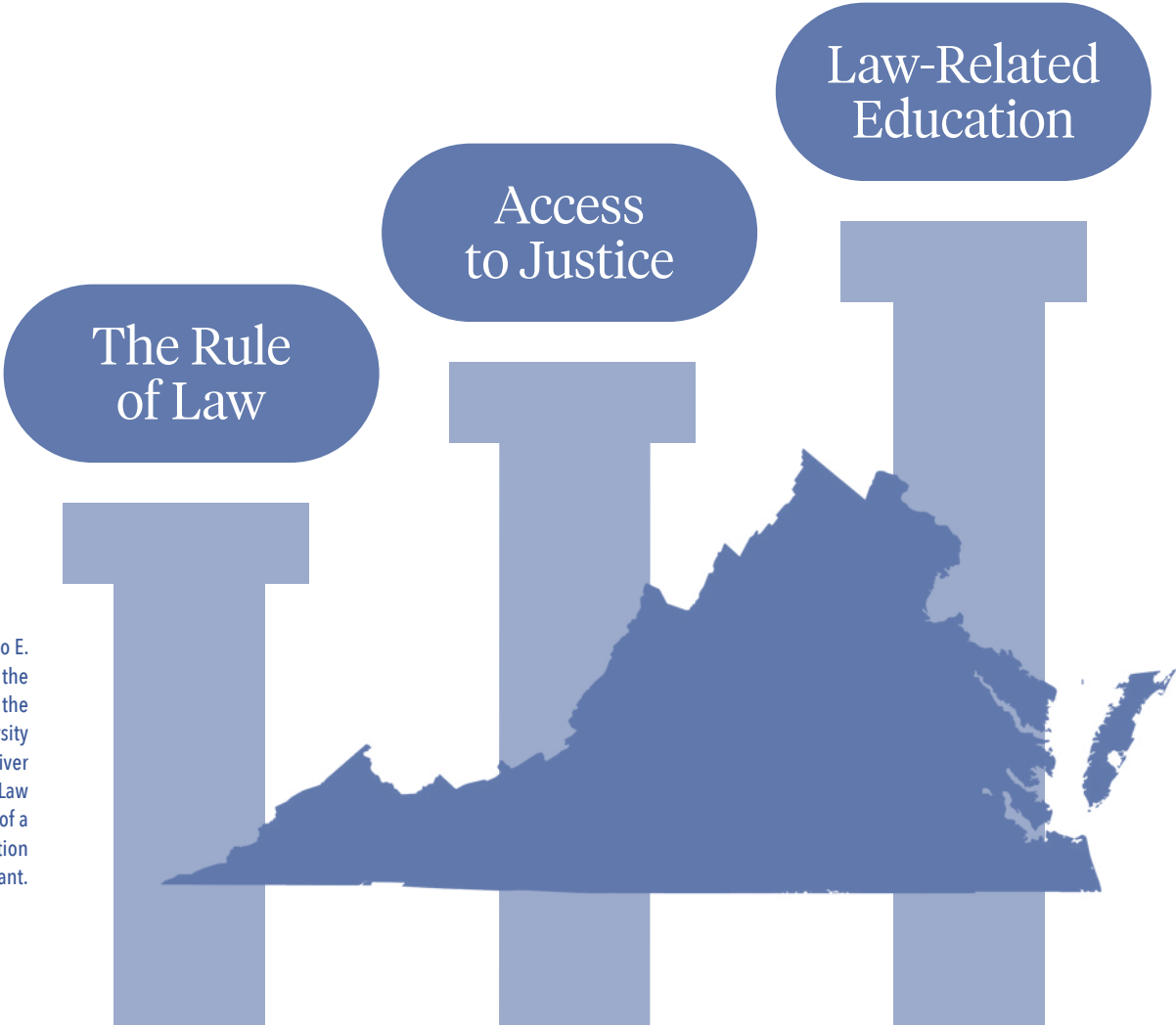
What kind of Virginia do we want to help create?

In response to this one guiding question, the Virginia Law Foundation developed **A NEW VISION STATEMENT** that reflects who we are today and where we are determined to go.

*A Virginia legal system
that is accessible, affordable, and fair for everyone;
where the law is applied impartially by an independent judiciary;
and where legal education equips attorneys to be skilled practitioners
and ethical advocates for their clients and teaches the public
about the American legal system.*



Opposite, Justice Cleo E. Powell speaks with one of the students participating in the Virginia State Bar Diversity Conference's Oliver Hill/Samuel Tucker Pre-Law Institute, recipient of a Virginia Law Foundation 2025 grant.



*Promoting, through philanthropy,
the Rule of Law, access to justice, and
law-related education*

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Change for the Good

President Stephen E. Noona looks back on a remarkable year for the Virginia Law Foundation.

Change is always hard. Forging a new course after following the same, comfortable path for years can be daunting. But, without true change, no entity can reach its full potential. When I assumed the service mantle of this 50-year-old entity, it was clear that change was not only needed, but that change could no longer be avoided. As such, I made this organization and its fellows a solemn promise: together, we would revitalize, reimagine, and remake this “force for good,” forging a new and more efficient, business-oriented enterprise imbued with renewed energy and vitality. Our goal was simple, lofty, and formidable: reshape the Virginia Law Foundation to be recognized, both administratively and financially, as one of the most important and well-run nonprofit Virginia organizations representing the Commonwealth’s legal profession. That would be our gift, the mark we left together, to impact Virginians for generations to come. As they say, what a difference a year has made. In short, we have seized our destiny and mastered our fate!

Thank You!

No journey is taken alone. Let me start with a hearty and deserved thank you to each and every member of the VLF’s Board of Directors, along with the fantastic staff. An especially thankful shoutout to our officers, David J. Gogal, Edward L. Weiner, and Colleen Marea Quinn, along with the chairs and vice chairs of our committees who have shouldered much of the burden of our success. Without their trust, dedication, and support, this transformation would not have been possible. Indeed, it is no secret—the VLF’s Board, with its blessing of talents and boundless energy, is one of the most sought-after and satisfying boards in Virginia upon which to serve. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Leadership

To effect change, you need positive and proactive leadership. The Virginia Law Foundation needed

“discipline with a reasoned heart” to set a better course. We found just that in Brigadier General (Ret.) Alison Martin. Our new and dynamic Chief Executive Officer has rapidly assessed, strategically thought out, and implemented our plan for change over the next few years. She has been very busy delivering on her promise to “right the ship” (yes, a mixed metaphor), executing on that long-term plan with daily success. Among other important changes, through her leadership, we have restructured and reduced our staff footprint to ensure we are focused on the work we do best while sustaining and investing in our current workforce, reengineered a more market-driven approach to the business arm of the VLF and brought costs into line, promoted and invested in our most productive employees, finalized and implemented our strategic plan, and inculcated a new and improved, in-office, Charlottesville-centered culture for our staff. Special thanks to Tersea Moore, Katie Arata, and Tanya Morris, who, along with many committed staff members, have faithfully served as Martin’s field commanders to help complete these changes and rally the troops. Coupled with needed major investments in our aging infrastructure and technology, these changes are already bearing long-term dividends and have poised the VLF for a more profitable and sustainable future.

Finance

Complementing the much-needed operational restructuring, we have invested in financial reorganization, discipline, and planning for the future. The hiring of our new Chief Financial Officer, Tekoi L. Dent, CPA, has allowed the Foundation to reengineer its financial and operational systems and more professionally account for and use financial data to proactively plan its business and philanthropic operations. Through Dent’s leadership and dint, the VLF has invested in its future by adopting cutting-edge financial software, instituting system-wide

Opposite, President Stephen E. Noona addresses guests at the Rule of Law Event, October 23, at the Virginia Holocaust Museum in Richmond.

President Noona officially welcomes the incoming Fellows Class of 2025 at a dinner in their honor at the Williamsburg Lodge in January. Here, Nancy F. Reynolds receives her certificate during the induction ceremony.

It matters not
how strait the gate,
How charged with
punishments the scroll,
I am the master of my fate,
I am the captain of my soul.

– From “Invictus”
by William Ernest Henley



Opposite, President Stephen E. Noona enjoys trying out his gift, a commemorative Virginia Law Foundation chair, as President-Elect David J. Gogal prepares for his upcoming year of leadership.

budgeting requirements for all programs and events, and implementing comprehensive financial controls and transparency. Dent’s changes have modernized the VLF’s operations, ensuring that we are not only accountable but accurate and transparent as well.

Assessment and Opportunities

In addition to these physical, financial, and business changes, the VLF reevaluated its CLE programming and strategically hired Karl Doss as our new Vice President of CLE. Through his collaboration with our CEO, CFO, and the CLE Committee, the number and mix of programs and publications offered were streamlined, updated, and renewed, ensuring that there is meaningful demand for all programs presented, that they are within budget, and that any new programs are both impactful and profitable. The VLF also varied the timing of several of its Institutes, moved to partner with others on certain programs, and successfully presented the inaugural Women and the Law Institute. In the end, these changes maximized successful, profitable events, reduced donor fatigue, and leveraged cost and attendance requirements by partnering with others to avoid over-saturation of the market. Proactive management of our legal education will continue.

Connecting with Past Leaders

As promised, our Board also reached out to our past presidents to harness their wisdom, influence, and energy in reimagining the VLF. These “giants” gladly came together and generously reinvested their time and resources to organize and promote our very successful Rule of Law Event with the Virginia Holocaust Museum. This event brought together nationally recognized judges, law professors, and leaders to celebrate the Rule of Law and highlight the VLF’s commitment to this fundamental principle. This epic effort was but the first step in strengthening our connection with these dynamic leaders and from it the League of Past Presidents of the Virginia Law Foundation was born. The group organized a well-attended Past Presidents’ Dinner. We look forward to their renewed support and guidance for years to come.

Delivering on our Mission

Finally, for all the change we have made, we have not lost sight of our mission. We have made real

and lasting impact. Along with inviting 26 new Fellows to take up our cause, I am thrilled to note that the VLF awarded a historic \$716,500 in grants to 33 organizations from across the Commonwealth this year. These grants were competitively selected from more than \$2 million worth of grant applications. This year’s momentous mission success adds to a long and storied history of success. Since launching our grants program in 1984, the Virginia Law Foundation has awarded more than \$30 million to advance our mission of upholding the Rule of Law, expanding access to justice, and enhancing law-related education. Let that sink in when you ask yourself whether the VLF makes a tangible and meaningful difference in the lives of Virginians!

The Virginia Law Foundation remains financially healthy. Thanks to the watchful stewardship of our Board, our Finance Committee, and our financial managers, we now boast nearly \$26 million in assets. It continues to add to these riches through its innovative marketing efforts that have raised the VLF’s profile and continued to garner significant means to do good and make meaningful impact in Virginia for the next 50 years.

In short, we have not only left our mark and made our lasting change, but we are achieving our mission! And, as always, we invite you to join us and participate.

Epilogue

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve this Board and worthy organization. I can personally say that for all the change we have wrought together, the biggest change comes to those who serve and how that service enriches our lives. As my time at the helm of this esteemed institution ends too quickly, I repeat the call that made this year great and meaningful: “[We] are the masters of [our] fate, [we] are the captains of [our] soul...” Let us continue to seize this opportunity and meet the next 50 years with clear conviction and the tireless energy to succeed. The success of our mission is worth the cost—period. Together, let us be unafraid to meet the challenge of meaningfully serving others!

Stephen E. Noona
President of the Virginia Law Foundation, 2025

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Kaufman & Canoles, PC

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Blankingship & Keith, PC

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Virginia Law Foundation

Chief Executive Officer
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Virginia Law Foundation

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Darrel Tillar Mason, Vice Chair

Fellows

Roscoe C. Roberts, Chair
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Governance

Colleen Marea Quinn, Chair

Personnel

Colleen Marea Quinn, Chair

Development & Philanthropy

Barbara Joynes, Chair
Edward L. Weiner, Vice Chair

Finance

David J. Gogal, Chair
Jeffrey B. Hassler, Vice Chair

Grants

Edward L. Weiner, Chair
Carole H. Capsalis, Vice Chair



Past Presidents

Sharing generously of their time and wisdom long after their stints wielding the VLF gavel come to a close

Colleen Marea Quinn 2024	Frank A. Thomas, III 2011–12	Joseph W. Richmond, Jr. 1999–2000	David Craig Landin 1987–88
Justice Jane Marum Roush 2023	David P. Bobzien ‡ 2010–11	Gail Starling Marshall 1998–99	Andrew J. Brent ‡ 1986–87
John D. McGavin 2022	Hon. Whittington W. Clement 2009–10	Stephen R. Pickard 1997–98	Robert P. Buford ‡ 1985–86
Jon D. Huddleston 2021	Mary Ann Delano 2008–09	F. Blair Wimbush 1996–97	Hunter W. Martin ‡ 1984–85
Matthew E. Cheek 2020	John L. Walker, III 2007–08	Howard W. Martin, Jr. 1995–96	Turner T. Smith ‡ 1981–84
F. Anderson “Andy” Morse 2019	John A.C. Keith 2006–07	George H. Roberts 1994–95	Herndon P. Jeffreys, Jr. ‡ 1979–81
Stephen D. Busch 2018	John R. Fletcher 2005–06	James R. McKenry ‡ 1993–94	Philip M. Sadler ‡ 1978–79
Lucia Anna “Pia” Trigiani 2017	W. Scott Street, III ‡ 2004–05	Russell V. Palmore, Jr. ‡ 1992–93	John S. Davenport ‡ 1977–78
Irving M. Blank 2016	Thomas C. Brown, Jr. 2003–04	Anne M. Whittemore 1991–92	Richard W. Smith ‡ 1974–77
John D. Epps 2014–15	Robert J. Merrick 2002–03	Thomas C. Palmer, Jr. 1990–91	‡ Deceased
James V. Meath 2013–14	Nancy N. Rogers 2001–02	Reginald N. Jones 1989–90	
Hon. Manuel A. Capsalis 2012–13	William R. Van Buren, III 2000–01	Lewis M. Costello ‡ 1988–89	

Opposite, Past Presidents of the Virginia Law Foundation were invited to assemble for a dinner in their honor at the Commonwealth Club, October 22.

In attendance are Hon. Whittington W. Clement, VLF CEO Alison Martin, Thomas C. Palmer, Jr., Irving M. Blank, David Craig Landin, Lucia Anna “Pia” Trigiani, John D. Epps, Stephen E. Noona, James V. Meath, Colleen Marea Quinn, John A.C. Keith, Mary Ann Delano, F. Anderson Morse, Matthew E. Cheek, F. Blair Wimbush, and Stephen D. Busch.

The VLF continues to value the perspectives and guidance this distinguished group of leaders brings to the organization.



My years of involvement with the Virginia Law Foundation have been among the most rewarding bar service that I have enjoyed. The mission of the VLF to provide access to justice for all and to defend the Rule of Law knows no partisan boundaries. Indeed, the VLF's grants have impacted every corner of the Commonwealth and become essential to many worthy causes.

I have continued to be active in the VLF's work because I strongly believe that those of us who have done well in the practice of law have an obligation to do good in defending the Rule of Law and providing access to justice for all. A survey of past leaders and Fellows is convincing evidence that continued service with the VLF is rewarding and satisfying.

– Irving M. Blank
VLF Past President
Class of 2008 Fellow



Heartfelt Appreciation

*Honoring our history and fostering connection—
A letter from new CEO Alison Martin*

Dear friends, supporters, volunteers, and partners,

As we reflect on the past year, I am filled with pride for all that we have accomplished together. The Virginia Law Foundation continues to be driven by a passionate commitment to our mission, and every milestone we reached this year is a testament to the dedication of our staff, volunteers, donors, and community partners.

This year also marked my arrival as chief executive officer, and I am profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve Virginia’s legal community. It is a privilege to join such a dedicated team, and I am inspired every day by the important work we do together.

From the very beginning, I felt warmly welcomed by the entire Virginia legal community, whose support and openness made my transition truly special. I am especially grateful for the enduring partnerships we have with so many dedicated stakeholders, which are essential to our continued success and collective impact. We are excited to share the many extraordinary initiatives and programs that our partners have contributed to, and we will highlight many of these wonderful organizations throughout this report.

Alongside my appointment, we welcomed several other key leaders to our organization, including our new Vice President of Continuing Legal Education Karl Doss and Chief Financial Officer

Tekoi Dent. Their dedication, impressive experience, and deep connections to our community will further strengthen and enhance our already talented and devoted staff. With their leadership, we are well-positioned to continue advancing our mission and supporting the legal community in meaningful ways.

Grants

Through our grant programs, we were able to assist 33 worthy organizations around the Commonwealth with \$716,500 in funding. The stories and reflections shared by these remarkable groups are truly inspiring. Their dedicated work on the front lines of access to justice, their commitment to promoting the rule of law, and their efforts to advance legal education throughout the Commonwealth address critical needs and help us fulfill our vision of a more just Virginia. By supporting these organizations, we strengthen our collective impact and ensure that vital resources reach those who need them most.

To our 470+ volunteers

Thank you! We are deeply grateful for the time, energy, and passion that our volunteers and supporters have dedicated throughout the past year. We would like to extend a special ‘thank you’ to the volunteers who served as faculty, authors, or facilitated our almost 150 different programs throughout the year—your contributions have been invaluable. Each milestone we reached was possible because of your commitment to our cause. As we reflect on these achievements, we recognize that our organization is stronger and more resilient, thanks to the collective efforts of our vibrant community of supporters.

Investing in our business so that we can invest in the Virginia legal community

2025 continues to be a time of meaningful change and transformation for our organization. Over the past year, we’ve made strategic investments in our facilities to create a welcoming physical space that invites legal leaders to teach, learn, and engage. We’re also proud to have significantly upgraded our technology, including enhancements to our website and improvements to both hardware and software systems. These advancements position us to respond more effectively to the evolving needs

of our community, ensuring we continue to deliver premier education and service in a dynamic environment. By strengthening our business functionality, we can be more intentional in our approach to service, education, and philanthropy—better meeting the needs of those we serve. While these improvements have required a substantial commitment in time and resources, we are confident they will yield lasting value and position us for long-term success and growth.

Honoring our History and Fostering Connection. As we embraced our 51st year, we made a conscious effort to reflect on our past, understand the journey that has brought us here, and appreciate our history. This intentional reflection has allowed us to build on our legacy, drawing valuable lessons and insights while remaining open to innovation and growth.

To nurture this spirit of reflection and strengthen our organizational bonds, we introduced a “Lunch and Learn” series. These gatherings provide a space to share our history with staff members and create opportunities for both staff and board members to connect. By coming together in this way, we are fostering a sense of unity and common purpose. These sessions celebrated our shared legacy while also providing a welcoming space to embrace fresh ideas and chart new directions for the future.

Our earnest commitment to serve as the preferred CLE provider in the Commonwealth

In 2025, our organization continued to evolve while remaining firmly rooted in the core principles that have made us the gold standard in continuing legal education across the Commonwealth. With nearly 500 hours of programming delivered in six locations statewide—and over 330 on-demand offerings available through our newly enhanced website—we are proud to be the premier and preferred provider for legal education, wellness, and nationally relevant legal issues. With eight new editions, we expanded our publications library to more than 49 titles and introduced new CLE proposal guidelines to encourage innovation and broaden participation. Our commitment to excellence also extends globally, as demonstrated by our enriching international CLE cross-cultural educational exchange, where we traveled to

New CEO Brigadier General (Ret.) Alison Martin attends one of the first Virginia Law Foundation events of her tenure—the Fellows Induction, January 23, in Williamsburg.

Illustrating how the Fellows program celebrates those who serve, the 2025 event brings together former JAG Corps members and Virginia Law Foundation Fellows Robert F. Redmond, Jr. (2017), Dean A. Benjamin Spencer (2025), Carlos L. Hopkins (2025), Alison Martin, and Darius Kobi Agyeman Davenport, Sr. (2025)

Europe and studied the Scottish and UK legal traditions and recent developments in the law. These efforts reflect our dedication to serving Virginia’s legal community with integrity, relevance, and forward-thinking leadership, and they highlight why Virginia CLE remains the choice for Virginia attorneys. Finally, by enrolling in Virginia CLE, you help to advance our mission and strengthen our philanthropic efforts!

Looking ahead

With your support, we are excited to continue building on our progress. In the coming year, we will focus on deepening our impact, expanding our reach, and fostering even stronger connections within our community. We invite you to stay engaged, share your ideas, and join us in creating positive changes.

We are thrilled to share several exciting milestones and events planned for 2026 that reflect our continued commitment to excellence and innovation in the legal profession.

The Wellness Institute—our flagship program dedicated to promoting mental health and well-being in the legal community—will return on May 4 to help kick off Well-Being in Law Week. This initiative underscores our dedication to supporting the holistic health of legal professionals.

A reimagined Constitutional Law Institute will take place in fall 2026. This revitalized program will offer fresh perspectives and dialogue on foundational legal principles as we reflect on our 250 years of independence and the role Virginia has played in the development of this great nation.

Finally, we celebrate a milestone as our Trial Advocacy College marks its 44th year. We are especially excited to announce a new partnership with William & Mary Law School, which will host this esteemed event and help us continue shaping the next generation of trial lawyers.

On behalf of our Board of Directors and the entire team, thank you for your continued support. We are honored to work alongside you as we strive to make a lasting difference. Together, we are transforming lives and building a brighter future.

Alison C. Martin
Brigadier General (Ret.) Alison Martin
CEO of the Virginia Law Foundation



Guiding our mission

To help achieve our reimagined vision, we finalized a strategic plan to guide our mission, priorities, and path into the future. Core goals and objectives that will shape our work beyond this impactful 51st year include...

Governance

- Goal

Improve transparency and align governance practices with Virginia Law Foundation’s mission and strategic goals.
- Objectives

 - Strengthen financial accountability and transparency
 - Review committee structures to ensure they support the VLF’s mission and strategic initiatives
 - Implement board recruiting best practices and plan for future staffing needs

Philanthropy

- Goal

Create a financially stable and transparent funding model that perpetually grows resources for the Virginia Law Foundation grantmaking.
- Objectives

 - Develop strategies to increase the VLF’s grantmaking capacity and impact
 - Create and develop infrastructure for the VLF’s long-term financial sustainability
 - Implement a planned-giving program

Programs and Education

- Goal

Continue to be the preeminent provider in Virginia dedicated to legal education, wellness, and issues of national importance.
- Objectives

 - Improve program offerings, logistics, and pricing options to grow participation in CLE programming
 - Enhance and strengthen partnerships to support growth goals
 - Present innovative programming for Virginia attorneys

Marketing

- Goal

Develop marketing strategies to support the VLF’s philanthropy and increase awareness of Virginia CLE.
- Objectives

 - Create a compelling branding message that amplifies the VLF’s philanthropy and continuing legal education
 - Develop and implement annual marketing plans that increase organizational visibility, customer and donor engagement, and impact of core initiatives

Fellows

- Goal

Review and improve the Fellows program to increase engagement and improve the Fellows’ experience.
- Objectives

 - Create new engagement opportunities for Fellows through volunteer roles
 - Develop and activate an outreach plan to increase, enhance, and support Fellows engagement

Opposite, CEO Alison Martin attends the Rule of Law Event, October 23, at the Virginia Holocaust Museum.

At the 2025 Virginia Judges and Lawyers Assistance Program’s 40th Anniversary Celebration Dinner, CEO Martin connects with Kimberlee Harris Ramsey, president of the Virginia Bar Association, then accepts an award from VJLAP President Joseph “Joey” Carico and Executive Director Tim Carroll.



2025 Grants

Promoting, through philanthropy, the Rule of Law, access to justice, and law-related education

Appalachian School of Law

Medical Legal Partnership – \$50,000

The Appalachian School of Law (ASL) continues its Medical-Legal Partnership with Ballad Health, an integrated healthcare system serving Southwest Virginia. This partnership aims to improve access to justice for medical patients and address healthcare demands attributable to or exacerbated by unmet legal needs. ASL students, under the supervision of licensed attorneys, will provide free legal services to low-income patients. This year's efforts will focus on those impacted by Hurricane Helene and the 2025 flood, enhancing access to justice in localized areas.

form of legal information, legal advice and brief services, and direct representation to low-income seniors in the Central Shenandoah Valley, namely, the counties of Rockingham, Augusta, Page, Highland, and the cities of Harrisonburg, Staunton, and Waynesboro. The project will target seniors with critical legal needs, with a special focus on elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation cases.

CancerLINC

Access to Justice for Latino and Spanish-Speaking Cancer Patients in Central & Southside Virginia – \$15,000

CancerLINC provides access to justice for low-income cancer patients who otherwise would not have attorneys, financial professionals, and others to help them address the non-medical challenges stemming from their cancer diagnosis — medical debt, eviction, bankruptcy, employment insecurity, and similar challenges. Given that cancer is the leading cause of death among Hispanics and Latinos, who face disproportionate poverty and healthcare obstacles, this group is particularly vulnerable to disparities in cancer care. This grant will support bilingual programs to better serve Latino cancer patients in Central and Southside Virginia, providing approximately 55 Latino cancer patients and family members with access to pro bono legal and financial resources.

Opposite, the Virginia State Bar Diversity Conference's Oliver Hill/Samuel Tucker Pre-Law Institute

Patrick Campbell speaks on behalf of Montpelier Foundation, outlining how their grant will be used for public constitutional initiatives and education.

President Stephen E. Noona presents an award to Arlene K. Beckerman, Director of Pro Bono Activities at the Fairfax Law Foundation.

The Legal Aid Society of Roanoke Valley will use their 2025 grant to deliver free and direct legal services to 225 victims of domestic abuse.



Blue Ridge CASA for Children

Advocacy for Children Experiencing Abuse and Neglect in the Shenandoah Valley – \$15,000

Blue Ridge CASA for Children trains and supports volunteer advocates to represent the best interests of abused and neglected children in Juvenile and Domestic Relations Courts. This grant will support outreach, screening, and training efforts to expand the pool of dedicated advocates, ensuring vulnerable children in the Shenandoah Valley have a consistent voice in legal proceedings.

Blue Ridge Legal Services

Free Civil Legal Assistance for Low-Income Seniors – \$25,000

Blue Ridge Legal Services dedicates itself to eliminating poverty-based inequities in the civil justice system by providing high-quality legal advice and representation to low-income residents of the Shenandoah and Roanoke Valleys. This project will provide free legal assistance in the

Central Virginia Legal Aid Society

Academic Medical Legal Partnership – \$40,000

Central Virginia Legal Aid Society provides legal representation and preventative community legal education to low-income and elderly clients in civil law cases at no charge, aiding vulnerable residents

with legal issues relating to consumer, domestic violence, employment, elder care, family, health, housing, and public benefits throughout Central Virginia. This year’s grant will help sustain and expand the existing Academic Medical Legal Partnership with VCU’s Health Hub. This partnership increases access to justice for low-income persons in the Church Hill community through health equity-focused legal interventions, expanded on-demand attorney access, and community education about legal issues, resources, and rights.

Children’s Trust

CASA Support in Roanoke Valley – \$5,000

Children’s Trust is dedicated to preventing and reducing the occurrence and trauma of child abuse and neglect. A recent rise in founded cases in the Roanoke Valley highlights a need for increased volunteer advocacy to support vulnerable children. Funding from this grant will strengthen recruitment efforts, enabling the organization to enlist 16 new volunteers. It will also support at least two additional training sessions focused on child welfare law and the judicial system. These expanded educational opportunities will empower volunteers with knowledge and confidence to effectively advocate for more stable outcomes for children in need.

Fairfax CASA

Advocacy for Abused Children in the Fairfax County Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court – \$15,000

Through the promotion and support of quality volunteer representation, Fairfax CASA advocates for the best interests of each abused and neglected child referred by the Fairfax County Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court. With a shortage of GALs and a significant rise in cases, CASAs provide consistent support, case monitoring, and vital information to the court. With a persistent waitlist, Fairfax CASA will use this grant to enhance case coordination, enabling children to receive more effective legal representation and ensuring equitable access to legal advocacy.patients.

Jazz4Justice reaches more than 2,500 people each year with live concerts that use music to educate audiences on the justice gap and raise funds to support legal aid organizations.

Fairfax Law Foundation

Northern Virginia Pro Bono Law Center Neighborhood Outreach Program – \$25,000

The Northern Virginia Pro Bono Law Center of the Fairfax Law Foundation provides legal assistance to poverty and low-income residents through its Neighborhood Outreach Program. As part of this program, volunteer lawyers meet virtually or travel to partnering sites throughout the community to help those most in need and provide free civil legal analysis, advice, and referral information. The Fairfax Law Foundation’s long-standing partnerships with community organizations enable pro bono attorneys to meet with potential populations seeking legal aid in their facilities, broadening their impact on those who would otherwise be denied access to legal services.

Freekind

Expanding Access to Justice for Victims of Trafficking – \$25,000

Freekind works to prevent human trafficking and support those it impacts on their journey to freedom. To better serve incarcerated human trafficking survivors in Virginia, Freekind is using this grant to expand both its Offramps and its Prevention Project™ programs to include a Juvenile Justice Edition (JJE). The Offramps Program improves access to justice for victims of human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation by strengthening criminal justice partnerships to more effectively identify victims who would otherwise go unidentified or misidentified, and by advocating for alternative sentencing through restorative services rather than increased incarceration. Additionally, Freekind will identify two new sites to pilot the JJE.

George Mason University Foundation

Mason Veterans and Servicemembers Legal Clinic – \$10,000

The Mason Veterans and Servicemembers Legal Clinic (M-VETS) at the Antonin Scalia Law School provides free legal representation to service members, veterans, and their families. Funding from the Virginia Law Foundation will enable M-



VETS to expand its pro bono legal services to assist at least 55 service members and veterans. This outreach will be supported by at least 10 Scalia Law students who will contribute 750 pro bono client hours, providing law students the opportunity to receive supervised, practical legal experience while advocating for service members.

Greater Richmond Bar Foundation

Statewide Pro Bono Campaign – \$50,000

Committed to expanding access to justice, the Greater Richmond Bar Foundation (GRBF) mobilizes, trains, and connects attorneys with pro bono clients. With the support of this grant, the GRBF aims to produce and sustain a professionally produced pro bono marketing campaign led by the Supreme Court of Virginia’s Access to Justice Commission. This campaign will leverage research-based triggers to increase awareness and inspire action. The GRBF will develop a network of experienced attorneys to serve as Pro Bono Amplifiers, and these individuals will help with recruiting, matching,

training, and mentoring prospective volunteers. Additionally, they will design and launch a centralized website to match service opportunities with volunteers to further cultural change and supplement existing outreach efforts.

Housing Opportunities Made Equal of Virginia, Inc.

Fair Housing Litigation and Legal Access – \$5,000

Housing Opportunities Made Equal of Virginia (HOME of Virginia) is a civil rights fair housing nonprofit whose mission is to ensure equal housing for all people. This grant will support the Fair Housing Litigation and Legal Access program, which assists Virginia residents in accessing housing justice. As part of this program, HOME of Virginia will open at least 24 investigations in an effort to advise and guide clients facing housing discrimination through the process of filing fair housing complaints and litigation. Additionally, the organization will present at least three fair housing trainings to community advocates and attorneys across Virginia in housing law so they can better help residents in their communities.

Since the establishment of our grants program in 1984, the Virginia Law Foundation has distributed more than \$30 million in grants to initiatives and nonprofits throughout Virginia aligning with the VLF’s mission.

Jazz4Justice

Jazz4Justice Concerts – \$14,000

Through partnerships with Virginia’s legal, business, music, and academic communities, Jazz4Justice raises awareness about the justice gap and supports music education. This grant will help Jazz4Justice use music to connect communities, educate audiences, and fundraise for legal aid organizations serving those most in need. Several times a year, college and university music programs will host jazz concerts, promoted by local bar associations, with proceeds shared between legal aid and the music programs. The upcoming season is expected to reach over 2,500 students and community members.

John Marshall Center for Constitutional History & Civics

Civics Connects in Virginia – \$65,000

The John Marshall Center (JMC) preserves and honors the founding legacy of Chief Justice John Marshall by engaging and educating learners of all ages about our constitutional history, the Rule of Law, and civics. Through partnerships with the Virginia Museum of History & Culture and the Virginia Law Foundation, JMC will present Civics Connects, a first-of-its-kind educational resource and program that deeply covers all Virginia standards for civics and economics for the middle grades. In the 2025–26 school year, Civics Connects will be piloted in middle schools across Virginia, supported by an expanded Civics Ambassador Corps of educators representing all regions of the state. The program will also be promoted through state and national conferences, professional development seminars, and VDOE platforms, with the goal of earning the High-Quality Instructional Materials endorsement from the Virginia Department of Education.

Legal Aid Justice Center

Charlottesville-Albemarle Bar Association Volunteer Lawyer Program – \$25,000

By partnering with communities and clients to achieve justice, the Legal Aid Justice Center dismantles systems that create and perpetuate poverty. Their Charlottesville-Albemarle Bar Association (CABA) Volunteer Lawyer Program is a community-responsive project that provides a structure for attorneys to deliver high-impact free legal services that transform the lives of their neighbors while deepening attorneys’ pre-existing commitment to justice-seeking work. This grant from the Virginia Law Foundation will support this program’s expansion to provide time-sensitive, critical legal support to Afghan evacuees residing in Virginia. CABA will continue to collaborate with state and national partners to ensure competent and compassionate pro bono legal service provision to fulfill the asylum, SIV, and other humanitarian petitions and needs of Afghan clients in Virginia.

Legal Aid Society of Eastern Virginia

Student Disability Rights Project – \$25,000

The Legal Aid Society of Eastern Virginia (LASEV) promotes the equal application of justice and removes impediments to fairness for the low-income and vulnerable families of eastern Virginia. While meeting the individual legal needs of clients, LASEV aims to challenge systemic injustice and the root causes of poverty and inequality. Its Disability Rights Unit focuses on outreach to parents of children with disabilities in their service area, and this grant will provide expanded service to 50 low-income children in need of special education advocacy.

Legal Aid Society of Roanoke Valley

Roanoke Valley Domestic Violence Survivors Civil Legal Services Project – \$30,000

The Legal Aid Society of Roanoke Valley (LASRV) applies a full range of expert legal services to identify and resolve the most critical civil injustices facing low-income people. The Roanoke Valley Domestic Violence Survivor Civil Legal Services Project is a longstanding project of the LASRV, and it provides free legal advice and court representation in civil matters to domestic violence survivors, along with assistance navigating the criminal justice system and associated processes. This grant will help deliver free and direct legal services to 225 victims of domestic abuse, distribute a written resource to educate and empower survivors, and provide education and outreach to the general public.

Library of Virginia Foundation

Finis: The Beginning of a New Era Project – \$15,000

The Library of Virginia, founded in 1823, houses

the most comprehensive collection of materials on Virginia government, history, and culture in the world and is the oldest cultural organization in the Commonwealth. In anticipation of the 250th anniversary of American Independence, the Library will prepare its colonial and revolutionary records for greater public engagement to highlight Virginia’s transition from a colonial government to a constitutional government. This grant will support the conservation of the last manuscript journal of the Virginia House of Burgesses. In addition, the Library will host a public display and lecture centered around this important document to address how Virginia navigated the transition from colony to revolutionary state.

Madison House

Free Tax Preparation Services – \$10,000

As the University of Virginia’s volunteer center for students, Madison House develops leaders, builds community partnerships, and organizes service programs to address the needs of the community as well as the educational and personal growth objectives of students. This grant will support Madison House’s Cville Tax Aid Coalition, which

Below, learners of all ages investigate the Library of Virginia’s display of colonial and revolutionary records.



provides free tax preparation services to low- and moderate-income residents of Central Virginia. Staffed by IRS-certified volunteers, including UVA students and community members, this program helps to ensure that underserved Central Virginians can access high-quality, accurate, and empathetic tax preparation services.

Montpelier Foundation

Public Constitutional Initiatives and Education – \$10,000

As the lifelong home of James Madison, Father of the Constitution and architect of the Bill of Rights, Montpelier’s mission is to communicate Madison’s role in creating our modern, democratic government. To meet the need for nonpartisan Constitutional education, Montpelier seeks to provide educational programming that equips Americans with constitutional knowledge, empowering them to apply that knowledge through increased civic participation. For the first time, Montpelier will host a Naturalization Ceremony for new U.S. citizens in 2026. In addition to supporting this event, the Virginia Law Foundation grant will empower ongoing programming to help citizens better understand and engage with the U.S. Constitution.

Northern Virginia Family Service

CASA Program – \$15,000

Northern Virginia Family Service (NVFS) empowers individuals and families to improve their quality of life and promotes community cooperation and support in responding to family needs. With support from this grant, NVFS’ Child and Family Well-Being program will recruit and train 20 community volunteers through three CASA training courses, equipping them with the skills needed to advocate effectively for 175 children in the court system. With NVFS supervision, 100% of child abuse and neglect cases assigned by Alexandria and Arlington Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court judges will receive CASA advocacy to ensure each child’s best interests are represented and that they receive the care and stability they need to thrive.

Regent University

The Human Trafficking Vacatur Clinic – \$20,000

Launched in 2023, the Human Trafficking Vacatur Clinic at Regent University’s Center for Global Justice aims to expand access to the Virginia vacatur law for victims of human trafficking. With support from the Virginia Law Foundation, the Clinic will expand filing petitions to all Virginia jurisdictions and coordinate with attorneys and partners to serve these victims. Additionally, the Clinic will conduct training sessions to educate 150 court personnel on identifying victims who have been charged with crimes and are being screened for specialty dockets. This helps to eliminate legal barriers victims often face, and with increased access to legal representation and dismissal of arrests and convictions, survivors are provided a chance to move forward in all aspects of life as they heal from the trauma of trafficking.

Slover Library Foundation

Symposium on the American Revolution – \$15,000

The Slover Library Foundation advances the library’s mission of creating a free and inclusive place where Hampton Roads residents can join together, share ideas and learn from each other. On November 14, the Slover Library Foundation will host a major symposium to explore Hampton Roads at the start of the American Revolution. Held on the eve of the 250th anniversary of North America’s first emancipation proclamation, issued in present-day Virginia Beach, the symposium will bring together leading scholars from around the nation to illuminate southeastern Virginia’s early contributions to American independence and the Rule of Law.

Southwest Virginia Legal Aid Society

Southwest Virginia Legal Educational Initiatives – \$15,000

The Southwest Virginia Legal Aid Society (SVLAS) champions equal justice for low-income Virginians by providing high-quality, courteous, and effective legal services to those facing serious threats to their personal, economic, or family



stability. SVLAS will utilize this grant to develop two one-day conferences: one to serve professionals who work with victims of domestic violence and the other to address elder abuse in many forms, including current scams that are taking place in southwest Virginia. The conferences’ sessions will offer quality education to increase professional development and awareness while offering critical resources to better assist the growing elderly population.

Virginia Civics Education, Inc.

We the People: Civics that Empowers All Students Teacher Training Cohort – \$10,000

Virginia Civics empowers the next generation of leaders in Virginia through constitutional literacy, critical thinking, and civic engagement. Using a rigorous and proven professional development program, Virginia Civics will train 22 elementary and middle school teachers on using the We the People: Civics that Empowers All Students program curriculum and equip them with essential civic education tools. Through a 36-hour summer Institute and follow-up trainings, educators will gain deep knowledge of constitutional principles and effective pedagogy. The We the People curriculum has been fully mapped to Virginia’s Standards of Learning requirements and serves as an effective Performance-Based Assessment for teachers.

Virginia Judges & Lawyers Assistance Program

Outreach and Education Analysis Heat Map – \$10,000

Virginia Judges and Lawyers Assistance Program (VJLAP) provides confidential, non-disciplinary assistance to lawyers, judges, law students, and legal professionals who are experiencing professional impairment as a result of substance abuse or mental health problems. VJLAP’s services are designed to promote recovery, protect the client, prevent disciplinary problems for the lawyer, support their families and professional associates, and strengthen the profession. To enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of its outreach and education, this grant will support the creation of a heat map, a data visualization tool that displays information collected and stored in VJLAP’s CommonThread database system. This heat map will enable real-time analysis of data to improve the organization’s mission effectiveness.

Virginia Law Schools

Public Service Internships – \$60,000

Supported by the Virginia Law Foundation since 1989, public service internships for first- and second-year law students help bring to light the importance of public interest and pro bono work. Seven of Virginia’s American Bar Association-accredited law schools receive funding for public

Above, a student receives instruction at the John Marshall Center for Constitutional History & Civics.

Faith Kallman, Chief Operating Officer of the Virginia Poverty Law Center, details how their grant will fund legal aid for low-income Virginians.



President Noona presents Amelia Bochain with a grant for VA Civics Education.

service internships during the summer. The students work under the supervision of an attorney. The work they complete varies widely, depending on the missions and caseloads of their host organizations. Some students gain experience working on individual client matters and others work on larger projects of service.

Virginia Poverty Law Center

Annual Statewide Legal Aid Conference— \$42,500

The Virginia Poverty Law Center (VPLC) breaks down systemic barriers that keep low-income Virginians in the cycle of poverty through advocacy, education, and litigation. Each year, the VPLC holds the Statewide Legal Aid Conference to provide CLE-certified trainings on poverty law issues, including consumer, health, family, housing, and other areas of civil poverty law, and this grant will help underwrite costs associated with the four-day event. As the premier poverty legal education conference in Virginia, the expanded hybrid model allows more people to attend either in-person or remotely to learn how to best support their low-income clients and obtain their required CLE credits at no cost to them or their legal aid organization.

Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance

Project for the Empowerment of Survivors – \$10,000

The Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance’s Project for the Empowerment of Survivors (PES) bridges the justice gap faced by underserved Virginians who are survivors of sexual and domestic violence. Through this program, the Action Alliance offers direct legal assistance to Virginia’s survivors of sexual and domestic violence and training to the legal community to expand capacity to meet survivors’ needs. PES offers survivors, particularly those who are traditionally underserved, an opportunity to find answers to legal questions, gain insight into additional legal issues, carefully weigh legal options via phone and chat, and be linked with legal advocacy and services in their communities.

Virginia State Bar Diversity Section

Oliver Hill/Samuel Tucker Pre-Law Institute – \$15,000

The Virginia State Bar Diversity Section fosters and encourages diversity and inclusion in

admission to the bar and advancement in the legal profession and in the judiciary. Named for legendary civil rights attorneys Oliver Hill and Samuel Tucker, the Hill Tucker Pre-Law Institute is presented annually and seeks to increase diversity in the legal profession by reaching future lawyers at an early age. For one week, diverse and academically at-risk high school students in Virginia stay on a college campus and attend mock classes and seminars on a variety of topics, including career opportunities in the law, test taking strategies, and the college admissions process. Support from this grant enables this Institute to be offered at no cost to all attendees.

Virginia State Bar Family Law Section

Spare the Child Video and Video Library – \$10,000

The Virginia State Bar Family Law Section works to improve the quality of family law practice in Virginia through annual programs of special interest and aims to furnish the public an understanding of their rights and obligations in such areas of law. This year’s grant will support the update of Spare the Child, an educational video that guides divorcing parents in visitation, custody, and child support issues, stressing the best interests of children. The updated version will feature modernized content in a more engaging format, making it more relevant and accessible to today’s audience. In addition to the video update, the Section plans to launch a comprehensive video library to provide valuable information on related topics that is accessible not only to Virginians involved in litigation, but to anyone seeking guidance on family law.

William & Mary Law School Foundation

The Lewis B. Puller, Jr. Veterans Benefits Clinic – \$10,000

The Lewis B. Puller, Jr. Veterans Benefits Clinic at William & Mary provides comprehensive support for veterans’ disability compensation claims by combining legal and psychological services. Each year, it manages around 100 pro bono cases valued at \$500,000, and the clinic has recovered more than \$10 million in back compensation for veterans and trained approximately 400 law students since 2008. Support from this year’s grant will enable the Clinic to address veterans’ needs holistically while deepening its understanding of the needs of women veterans. Additionally, the Clinic will prepare the next generation of legal advocates through hands-on training in veterans’ benefits law and client-centered advocacy.

YWCA Central Virginia

Empowering Survivors Through Court Advocacy – \$10,000

YWCA Central Virginia is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women, and promoting peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all. This grant will help underwrite a Court Advocate who will connect survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking with court services, legal protections, and essential resources. This position will expand the organization’s reach across its large and primarily rural service area, allowing existing staff to serve more survivors more effectively in underserved communities. By enhancing court advocacy and crisis response in partnership with local law enforcement, the grant will help break the cycle of abuse and improve long-term safety and outcomes for high-risk victims and their families.

One hundred percent of every unrestricted dollar donated to the Virginia Law Foundation is included in our annual grant allocation to benefit Virginians throughout the Commonwealth.

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For over 30 years, I practiced with Big Law as a litigator and with corporations as general counsel. Only in the past 8 years as a solo in a rural area have I seen what practicing law really means. It’s helping a woman escape an abusive relationship, helping children deal with substance abuse of their caregivers, helping folks address significant property issues of family homesteads, and a myriad of other issues that low-income folks face frequently. I wish I had answers. But never have I been more satisfied that I may be making a difference in some small way.

– Diane M. Lank
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Victor Cardwell is inducted
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After about 40 years of doing this job, I can confidently say I have learned more about the actual practice of law from other attorneys than from just reading any book or article. And the best way to learn is through the programs of Virginia CLE. They recruit the most knowledgeable practitioners to speak on their specialties.

– David Masterman
Virginia CLE Faculty Member



For a half century, the Virginia Law Foundation has been working toward a more just Virginia. Empowering Virginia’s legal professionals with superlative continuing legal education advances this mission.

In 2025, 473 distinguished judges and attorneys volunteered to teach with Virginia CLE. With their time and expertise, we presented 144 live programs, with most simultaneously webcast to additional participants across the state. Our work totalled to 491 hours of CLE covering essential skills, updates, ethics, and topics tailored to serve Virginia practitioners. In addition, use of our on-demand library of 300+ seminars showed a 30% increase this year.

Long considered the region’s finest, several of our multi-day annual programs welcomed increased attendance this year. Among them:

- Bankruptcy Law
- Advanced Real Estate Law
- Conner-Zaritsky Advanced Estate Planning
- Virginia Conference on Federal Taxation
- Recept Developments in the Law
- Advanced Elder Law Update
- Mid-Atlantic Institute on Bankruptcy and Reorganization Practice
- Family Law
- Trusts and Estates
- Criminal Law Behavioral Health Symposium
- Construction Law and Public Contracts

Our thanks to the more than 10,000 attorneys who choose Virginia CLE this year. They not only invested in their own careers, but in the VLF’s philanthropic power, which improved the lives of thousands of Virginians with access to justice and civics education in 2025. Learn more at vacle.org and virginialawfoundation.org



Moderator Andrew Richmond and Hon. Robert Humphreys contribute as faculty members at the 44th Annual Family Law Seminar, October 29, in Virginia Beach.

Virginia CLE Program Planner Asha Holloman checks every detail at the Boar’s Head Resort, setting for the 40th Annual Mid-Atlantic Institute on Bankruptcy and Reorganization Practice, September 25.

Rachel Greenleaf, Hon. Kevin R. Huennekens, and Caleb Chaplain lead a session entitled “Recent Developments for Advanced Bankruptcy Practitioners” at the Mid-Atlantic Institute. A seminar participant holds up his copy of Virginia CLE’s newly published *Bankruptcy Practice in Virginia*, prize in the day’s raffle drawing.

R. Shawn Majette presents Claire Kelly with the award named in his honor at the 34th Annual Elder Law Update Seminar, September 11 in Richmond.

Stretto was among the generous sponsors underwriting the Mid-Atlantic Institute on Bankruptcy.

Program Planner Kim Villio and Seminar Support and Venue Manager Deanna McGlothlin prepare for the Conner-Zaritsky 46th Annual Advanced Real Estate Planning Administration Seminar, April 25 at the Williamsburg Lodge.

CLE...Everywhere!

Virginia Law Foundation travelers set out for Scotland to enjoy bespoke visits to castles, the high Courts, Parliament, and more.

“What a wonderful way to earn 8 MCLE credits!”

From the sheep-laden borderland with England (where Sir Walter Scott wrote about the history of Scotland), to the sweeping ocean vista of golf’s famous birthplace (the Old Course of St Andrews), to extraordinary Stirling Castle overlooking the Bannockburn plain where Scotland began her independence, 37 members of Virginia’s legal community journeyed with the Virginia Law Foundation throughout Scotland, October 12–19. Deeply immersed in the country’s rich legal and regal history, our VLF travelers experienced private entry and lectures—at Stirling and Edinburgh Castles, at Lord Elgin’s Broomhall House (the ancestral seat of the direct descendants of King Robert the Bruce), at the 21st Lady Maxwell Stuart’s manor home with an unsurpassable Scottish luncheon, to name a few.

“It’s hard to believe we are at this momentous place by ourselves,” said Michael York upon entering majestic Edinburgh Castle overlooking the bustling city below. Exclusive entrée into historic sites allowed for uniquely intimate experiences that most travelers will never have. Private entry and a guided visit to high Courts and the Scottish Parliament, highlighted Scotland’s distinctive legal heritage alongside the UK common law system. “What a wonderful way to earn 8 MCLE credits,” said Edward L. Weiner,

Vice President of the Virginia Law Foundation. Even Virginia Ethics found its way onto the menu—the Hon. Jane Marum Roush (ret.) and the Hon. Daniel E. Ortiz gave their lecture before the travelers headed to St Andrews.

One special evening in Edinburgh was capped first by a private tour and champagne reception aboard Queen Elizabeth II’s beloved yacht, now permanently moored at Leith Port in Edinburgh, and then a captivating lecture given by two advocates who obtained pardons in the Scottish Parliament for hundreds of previously condemned “witches” of Scotland.

This unforgettable journey blended cultural discovery and legal exploration, leaving the delegation with both memorable experiences and a deeper understanding of a nation renowned for its history, resilience, and vibrant traditions.

Opposite, VLF travelers assemble under the gaze of Robert the Bruce’s statue at Stirling Castle.

One of the group’s dedicated guides is a former ambassador from Scotland, shown here on a stop in the borderlands.

International Subcommittee members Ed Weiner, Margaret Nelson, Hon. Daniel Ortiz., Hon. Jane Marum Roush (ret.), and Michael York gather for a photo as the group enjoys a private toast aboard the *Britannia* in the Queen’s sitting room.

After an exclusive tour of Edinburgh Castle, the Virginians let the home colors fly.



More journeys await

Watch for information in the new year and register for our next Virginia CLE trip abroad—Sicily in spring 2027.





Trusted Publications

Created by Virginia attorneys especially to serve Virginia attorneys

Senior Publications Specialist Valerie Gooch and Editor Tyler Marshall are on site at the Mid-Atlantic Bankruptcy Seminar, September 25, to talk to seminar guests about Virginia CLE's new 2025 edition of *Bankruptcy Practice in Virginia*.

Virginia CLE publications are made possible by the contributions of some of the Commonwealth's most esteemed practitioners and judges. These generous authors and editors helped us publish eight titles in 2025, growing from three in 2024. From multi-volume reference sets to easy-access tabbed guides, our staff strives to maintain a diverse selection of titles to meet the needs of Virginia attorneys. All are offered in both print and electronic formats for our varied readership.



New titles in 2025

Defending Criminal Cases in Virginia

Bankruptcy Practice in Virginia

Virginia Family Law Trial Handbook:
Pleadings, Evidence, and Strategies

Objections: Interrogatories,
Depositions, and Trial

A Guide to the Rules of Evidence in Virginia

Virginia Criminal Practice Forms

Virginia Civil Practice Forms

Defense of Serious Traffic Cases in Virginia

Browse all titles at vacle.org.

William & Mary Law School, the nation's first law school, brings a strong tradition of advocacy education and a commitment to shaping practice-ready citizen lawyers. This new partnership with the Virginia Law Foundation honors our rich legacy while positioning it for continued excellence in the decades ahead. It also complements the important work we are doing in the advocacy space—both through current initiatives and those we have planned for the future—reinforcing our mission to prepare students to be impactful and principled advocates in their communities and beyond.

— Dean A. Benjamin Spencer
William & Mary Law School
Class of 2025 Fellow



The Wellness Institute

AT THE BARNES AT WOLF TRAP
MAY 4, 2026



National Trial Advocacy College

AT WILLIAM & MARY LAW SCHOOL
AUGUST 8-12, 2026



The Constitutional Law Institute

SEPTEMBER 2026

A Peek at CLE in 2026!



Kelly Mikalho

A Wealth of Excellence

The Virginia Law Foundation celebrates the citizen lawyer, welcoming 26 exceptional new Fellows into the Class of 2025.

On January 23, legal leaders and supporters of the Virginia Law Foundation gathered at the Williamsburg Lodge to induct 26 citizen lawyers as Fellows. This annual event honored the Class of 2025's remarkable contributions to the legal profession and their communities.

Leading the evening's festivities were Stephen E. Noona, 2025 president of the Virginia Law Foundation, and Roscoe C. Roberts, VLF board member and chair of the Fellows Committee. This celebration was made even more meaningful by the announcement and introduction of our new Chief Executive Officer, Brigadier General (Ret.) Alison Martin.

Coming on the heels of our 50th anniversary, the evening underscored our continued commitment

to the pillars of our mission, ushering in new leadership while honoring distinguished leaders in the community. Each Fellow was individually recognized and applauded by guests, and following the ceremony, Justice Stephen R. McCullough delivered a powerful keynote speech that highlighted and reinforced the ideals of the newest Fellows.

Nominated confidentially by their peers and selected by the Fellows Committee, Fellows are recognized as community leaders who demonstrate the highest professional standards in their practice. Since its establishment in 1983, the Fellows program has inducted more than 800 attorneys and judges.

Opposite, the Class of 2025 Fellows

The Fellows Class of 2025

Attison L. Barnes, III
John J. Brandt
Victor O. Cardwell
Mark K. Cathey
Darius Kobi Agyeman Davenport, Sr.
Jason R. Davis
Daniel L. Gray
Carlos L. Hopkins
William B. Hopkins, Jr.

Richard H. Howard-Smith
Stanley K. Joynes III
Diane M. Lank
Benjamin D. Leigh
K. Lorraine Lord
Krista M. Mathis
Charles G. Meyer, III
Nancy F. Reynolds
Michael W. Robinson

W. Ryan Snow
A. Benjamin Spencer
Joanna L. Suyes
Susan Bradford Tarley
Elizabeth L. Wildhack
Sara R. Wilson
Thomas M. Wolf
John Edward Zydron

The 2025 Fellows Induction was sponsored by





BARBARA AND STAN JOYNES
















Roscoe Connel Roberts and the Hon. Angela Edwards Roberts



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Darrel Tillar and Carroll A. Mason

Bob and Kathleen Redmond Virginia Law Foundation Board



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Dean A. Benjamin Spencer
receives his Fellows pin from VLF
Board Member Jaquelyn E. Stone.

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Opposite, new Fellow Darius K. Davenport receives his pin from VLF Board Member Barbara Joynes, January 23, 2025.



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Virginia Law Foundation Fellows — In Memoriam



“

The law once saw women as property. Today, women are writing the laws.

– Eva DeVirgilis, keynote speaker



The Women and the Law Institute

An inclusive, multigenerational forum designed to empower women as leaders and change-makers

The inaugural Women and the Law Institute convened at The Woman’s Club at the Bolling Haxall House in Richmond during Women’s History Month, March 20 and 21, gathering impressive faculty and participants from across the Commonwealth. Chaired by Richmond leaders Colleen Marea Quinn and Claire G. Gastañaga, the symposium was designed to support women in their careers and lives, provide essential resources and tools for success, and foster a thriving community.

Speaking enthusiastically about the curriculum beforehand, Ms. Quinn said, “We will explore the history of women *in* law, as well as the experiences of women impacted *by* the law. Expanding our Virginia CLE programming is a key priority for the Virginia Law Foundation, and this new Institute is an important step toward that goal.”

The Institute’s sold-out welcome dinner on March 20 was opened to the public as part of an initiative to engage a broader community in the work of the VLF and its mission. Eva DeVirgilis—award-

winning playwright, actor, makeup artist, and advocate for women and girls globally—delivered an energetic and interactive keynote centered around her campaign to help women stop saying “Sorry.”

Panels the following day focused on the impact of the law on women throughout history, honored the journeys of women who have made law their career, highlighted women leading change in the practice of law, and encouraged the growth of mentorship programs to advance both individual careers and the broader legal community. Attorneys in attendance, whether in person and via webcast, earned 6.0 hours of MCLE credit with Ethics.

Underwriting by generous sponsors helped make the institute possible, and we thank them along with everyone who took part. Learn more about the Institute at womenandthelaw.org.



Members of the Institute faculty gather between panels: First row, Colleen Marea Quinn, Claire Guthrie Gastañaga, Sandra L. Havrilak, Tricia Dunlap, Mallory Brennan, Renu M. Brennan, Rebecca Geller, and Rudene Mercer Haynes. Second row, Hon. Angela Roberts, Danielle Stokes, Hon. Devika Davis, Lucia Anna “Pia” Trigiani, Hon. Jean W. Cunningham, Justice Cleo E. Powell, and Faith A. Alejandro.

Keynote speaker Eva DeVirgilis and Amy Ringberg enjoy the opening reception.

Sheila Costin, Maryse Allen, Kristina Keech Spittler, and Sarah Redding Wilson enter the ballroom for dinner.

The Women and the Law Institute 2025 was made possible by these sponsors

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Senior Assistant Attorney General of Virginia

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(Ret.) Thirteenth Judicial District

* Faculty and Moderators

Danielle Stokes, Hon. Devika Davis, Lucia Anna “Pia” Trigiani, and Justice Cleo E. Powell comprised a panel discussing their experiences over four decades of service. Hon. Angela E. Roberts introduces the group before joining the conversation. An interactive poll asked attendees for one takeaway they hoped to gain from the institute and projected the responses in live time on a screen in the lobby. Co-Chair Claire Gastañaga introduces the keynote speaker at the Institute welcome dinner.



Vision for the Rule of Law



As this great nation approaches its 250th anniversary, let us hold fast to the core values that have endured and preserved our precious union. For over two centuries, we, as a nation, have protected and preserved freedom by adherence to a simple but powerful principle: the Rule of Law, a guiding principle that, by definition, is neither political nor partisan. For as our Founders recognized, “men are not angels,” and to guard against the evil of self-interest, all rights must be secured and guaranteed by one overarching right: a disciplined adherence to a set of laws fairly and evenhandedly administered to all regardless of station in life.

For more than 50 years, this enduring principle has formed the cornerstone of the Virginia Law Foundation’s philanthropic efforts. The Foundation has spent untold hours and invested millions of dollars fostering a respect for and promoting a better understanding of this invaluable guarantee of freedom throughout Virginia. Our vision succinctly underscores the foundational importance of this guarantee as we tirelessly seek: A Virginia legal system that is accessible, affordable, and fair for everyone; where the law is applied impartially by an independent judiciary; and where legal education equips attorneys to be skilled practitioners and ethical advocates for their clients and teaches the public about the American legal system.

Today, as it has for every day of the last 50 years, the Virginia Law Foundation celebrates and reaffirms its support for the Rule of Law. For it is only through a conscious adherence to and support for this vision of the Rule of Law that Virginia will gain the true freedoms promised by the genius of this guiding principle.



The Rule of Law Event

Promoting an understanding of the Rule of Law and two exceptional legal leaders who champion it—Hon. J. Michael Luttig and Jeanne F. Franklin

On October 23, the Virginia Law Foundation and the Virginia Holocaust Museum co-hosted the 2025 Rule of Law Event, which highlights a central lesson of the Holocaust—the essential role of the Rule of Law in preserving civil society—and honors leaders who exemplify this principle. This year's event recognized the Honorable J. Michael Luttig and Jeanne F. Franklin.

Nearly ninety guests attended a luncheon, awards ceremony, and an engaging Rule of Law presentation that replaced the traditional keynote this year. VLF Immediate Past President Colleen Marea Quinn opened the program, noting the long partnership between the VLF and the VHM. Museum Executive Director Samuel Asher welcomed attendees, followed by an invocation from Board Member and Past VLF President Irving M. Blank.

After lunch, VLF CEO Brigadier General (Ret.) Alison Martin introduced the featured speakers—renowned Professor Emeritus A.E. Dick Howard and Professor Charles Barzun of the University of Virginia School of Law. More than 230 additional attorneys participated via the live webcast which offered 1.0 hour of MCLE credit.

Following the seminar, President Noona presented the Civility in the Law Award to Jeanne F. Franklin, a former VLF board member and

Virginia Bar Association president whose legal career includes advocacy for Native American rights at the U.S. Department of the Interior. Franklin's recent work includes launching Virginia's "Building Bridges" movement to support civil discourse and the Rule of Law.

VLF Past President David C. Landin presented the Rule of Law Award to the Honorable J. Michael Luttig. Judge Luttig served on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit from 1991 to 2006, following his appointment by President George H.W. Bush. Prior to his judicial service, he held prominent roles in the federal government, including assistant attorney general at the Department of Justice, counselor to the attorney general, and assistant counsel to President Ronald Reagan. He also clerked for then-Judge Antonin Scalia and later served as law clerk and special assistant to the chief justice of the United States.

Both honorees accepted their awards with humility and gracious remarks. Judge Luttig noted that he was especially moved to receive the Rule of Law Award merely feet from the VHM's immersive recreation of the Nuremberg Courtroom (a signature project funded by the VLF). President-Elect David J. Gogal closed the event with remarks on the VLF grants program and gratitude to all who contributed.

Opposite, VLF Past Presidents Colleen Marea Quinn, David C. Landin, and Stephen E. Noona with 2025 award recipients Hon. J. Michael Luttig and Jeanne F. Franklin.

VHM Development Manager Brett Schrader with VLF Vice President of Administration Teresa Moore at the Rule of Law Event.

UVA Law Professors A. E. Dick Howard and Charles Barzun lead an hour-long CLE presentation on the history of the Rule of Law.

VHM President and Executive Director Samuel Asher welcomes everyone on behalf of the Virginia Holocaust Museum.

VLF Past President and VHM Board Member Irving M. Blank gives the invocation.



The Rule of Law Event was made possible by

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