

**2023 Annual Meeting Recap Meeting**  
**Virginia State Bar**  
**August 21, 2025**  
**3:00 p.m.**

**Via Teams**

**Agenda**

**I. 2024 Annual Meeting Attendance (approx.) Juncker/Stengel**

<b>2024 Annual Meeting*</b>	<b>2023 Annual Meeting</b>
164 Attorneys	220 Attorneys
37 Judges	34 Judges
72 First Time Attendees	61 First Time Attendees
54 Fifty Year	5 Fifty Year
132 Guests	50 staff, guests, speakers
33 Speakers	

\*the new registration platform does not allow us to compare apples to apples

**II. Evaluations Review Juncker**

**III. Financial Review Stengel**  
a. Sponsors

**IV. Feedback Stengel**  
a. Hilton Oceanfront  
b. Hilton Garden Inn  
c. Whova Meeting App

**V. New Events Stengel**  
a. Pro Bono Lunch and CLE

**VI. Additional Topics Juncker**  
a. Date and Location of Future Annual Meeting  
    i. June 11-14, 2025 in Virginia Beach  
b. Theme for 2025 Meeting?  
c. CLE Theme in 2025?  
    i. How to encourage stronger CLEs  
d. Future Planning  
    i. See Attachment

**VII. Old Business**

**VIII. New Business**

2024 ANNUAL MEETING  
VIRGINIA STATE BAR  
May 29-June 1, 2024  
**EVALUATION SURVEY**

1. **Was this year's Annual Meeting useful and informative to you?**

Very **74%**       Somewhat **26%**       To a limited extent       Not at all

Comments: \_CLE's needed more litigation focused topics, but the mediation session was helpful.

Met a lot of new friends.

The Elder sessions were great.

Ethics & AI were great.

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2. **Why did you attend the Annual Meeting?**

CLE **79%**       Social Event **37%**       Section/Conf. Event **37%**       Other **37%**

Comments: \_Bar Council member.

50-year celebration & recognition.

Judge George Varoutsos is a friend.

Excellent Elder sessions.

For networking.

The VWAA annual conference is also (purposefully) held the same weekend.

Council Meeting

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3. **Was the Annual Meeting mobile app helpful to you?**

Yes **58%**       No **16%**       Did not download **26%**       Was not aware of it

Comments: Used the pocket size agenda.

Very difficult to Access – only accessed with help of VSB staff – and still cannot get info I need from it.

Va. Beach is a great venue.

I have a different email address on my phone from the email I used to register. It was too much of a bother to try to figure that issue out. Plus I did not want a lot of frivolous communications.

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4. **Did you like the format of the meeting? (i.e. mix of CLE, social and other events)**

Very **74%**       Somewhat **16%**       To a limited extent       Not at all

Comments: Would be great to have an opening reception on Thursday for folks given the Friday start time.

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5. **What other CLE topics would you like to see at future Annual Meetings?**

Generative AI.

Understanding and leveraging AI in legal practice substance abuse and addiction and mental illness issues w/ digital assets in Family Law, IP, Contracts, etc. Negotiation and Alternative Dispute Resolution Best Practices.

Anything new.

As much as possible RE & Elderness.

Native Tribal Laws; Overview of Supreme Court decisions and Court of Appeals; CLE with Dean of Law Schools about state of legal profession from their view in terms of pipeline.

CLE on new law re: assignment contracts //what defines a RE “broker”/salesperson.

Cross-examination training. Use of evidence objections. More trial-related topics.

Property issues.

Work-life balance & Wellness at all stages of your legal career and life (New lawyer, seasoned lawyer, changing practice area, considering retirement, impact of children, spouses, or ailing parents on your ability to perform...) VJLAP can help.

Please always do ethics on rule 6. 1 at least every other year. It's a core mission of the bar. If not then please devote a CLE segment to some access topic each year.

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6. **Did you attend the social event *Dance with King Soul* after the banquet on Friday evening?**

Yes **32%**                       No **58%**

Should this event continue?

Yes **42%**

No

If yes, other suggestions for bands/entertainment? \_I'm indifferent to the dancing.

However, I don't think the name of band was correct. The music did not appear to be soul music- so I left after 30 minutes.

No, but maybe not always a band? President's discretion? Karaoke could be fun, a casino night w/ proceeds to legal aid, piano bar sing-along.

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7. **Is the family culture of the Annual Meeting important to you or a factor in your attendance?**

Yes **63%**                       No **37%**

Comments: Spouses are welcomed.

I am the only family member attending.

Not really, my partner has to work on Thursdays and so cannot be present at the event.

Although my family did not attend this year, I would like (and plan for) them to join me at future annual meeting.

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8. **What other type of programs or events would you like to see at future Annual Meetings?**

Maybe a food truck dinner for all attendees – it's a little less formal.

A judges' forum with Q & A (open topic)

Maybe a service project to help the community where the conference is held.

More time built in to network and meet other attendees. Many of the programs were very scheduled with agenda items that didn't leave much time for this – it seemed like many people already knew each other.

Work-life balance, Wellness (mental & physical health) CLE's, VJLAP Can do this.

Someone suggested doing the meeting at the same time as the professionalism course for new lawyers – awesome idea to bring in new people!

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9. **How many years have you been attending the Virginia State Bar's Annual Meeting?**

- First-time attendee **21%**       Less than 5 years **11%**       5-10 years **16%**       More than 10 years **53%**

10. **Do you plan to attend future Annual Meetings?**

- Yes **89%**       No

Comments: The CLE is always excellent and convenient for me.

Probably the next one in 2025, not sure if can attend in 2026.

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11. **Would you attend the Annual Meetings if it moved to another city or time of year?**

- Yes (new location) **53%**       No (new location) **21%**       Yes (new time of year) **42%**       No (new time of year) **11%**

Comments/Suggested Locations: Rotate event with venues in Western/Central Virginia like the Homestead or Boar's Head. Maybe.

Yes- But strongly support Va. Beach location and 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend in June.

I would attend anywhere but I love that it is in Va. Beach and hope you don't change. I prefer Father's Day weekend.

Want it back to Father's Day weekend.

I think the end of May was a great time in terms of cost, weather and potential less conflicts. I am also in foavor of new locations perhaps not every year, a new location but a new location every 3 to 4 years would be good to show everyone that the bar encompasses all parts of the Commonwealth.

Rotate forums around the state at appropriate venues.

Except rural or hard to reach areas.

Richmond, Alexandria, or Keep at Virginia Beach. I like the 5/29 to 6/1 time frame. After school graduations, and also before huge summer travel season.

I love going to the beach for this – but it's so inconvenient for most of the state and now a bad location given that no single hotel can accommodate us. Please make ONE hotel the priority over all else.

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12. **Your favorite event of the Annual Meeting?**

Bar Council Reception & dinner, Rakes award.

Judicial Squares, Cocktail Social.

CLEs -luncheons.

Being at Va. Beach with ability to see people we don't see at any other time!

Receptions.

3 Headed Dragon CLE

No particular favorite.

CLE's and seeing friends/classmates.

Judicial squares, Pro Bono awards, YLC reception.

JUDICIAL SQUARES!!!! Best event, Best CLE, great way to close out the annual gathering. Access luncheon, used to be also the vendor hall & running into folks there.

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13. **Do you have any other general comments or suggestions about the Annual Meeting?**

We need to change schedule to get more attendees at the General Session.

More luncheons and breakfasts.

Getting harder since not at Cavalier – back and forth is hard.

More danceable music.

Magnetic name tags – no pins.

The VSB staff always does a great job executing this Annual Meeting. I always find the meeting informative and enjoyable. Thank you VSB Staff!

Good idea – Hilton is OK because it can accommodate a lot.

The slides were difficult to read. Light blue on pink, yellow on gray. Lovely colors but black ink on white background is much easier to read.

One hotel vs. 2- or have 2 check- in desks.

More practical training opportunities / trial skills work; legal writing work.

Try not to schedule conference when events attracting ill-behaved people will be in hotel. (I know this is a challenge.)

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Publicize dress code further in advance(didn't realize casual dress was allowed); clearer labeling what is and isn't a ticketed event; too much bacon in the meal options to accommodate other meal needs; Consider google form or Microsoft form for an electronic survey rather than paper.

Offer Yoga or a meditation (quiet) area/room for mid-day, or 5pm time frame. For folks not at the hotel to get a break.

More transition time is needed between CLE's especially if in different venues/hotels. Please consider those with physical disabilities or walking issues. I don't have those issues, but I've heard comments/complaints.

This meeting should move throughout the state – the Homestead would be great & convenient to SW attorneys. If you truly value attorneys in legal deserts, then make this meeting more accessible to them on occasion. I realize some have long-term fond memories of coming to the beach on Fater's Day with their kids, etc., but only doing that forever excludes people for many reasons. Pick a weekend and stick with it, but at least more throughout the state to give more people a chance. (Hotel Roanoke or Hilton Main/Marriott Waterside probably could do it. Lansdowne Resort – so many options!

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14. **Would you be interested in serving on the Annual Meeting Planning Committee?**

Yes **16%**                       No **68%**

Comments: I have served for many years- a younger person should probably replace me.

Maybe in a few years... would love to...

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ VSB I.D. \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return by June 14 to:**  
Virginia State Bar, Bar Services Department  
1111 East Main Street, Suite 700  
Richmond, Virginia 23219-3565  
BarServices@vsb.org

## 2025 Proposed Annual Meeting Sponsors

### General Event Sponsors

SPONSOR	AMOUNT
Cooper Hurley Injury Lawyers	<b>\$5,000</b>
Virginia529	<b>\$2,500</b>
Liberty University	<b>\$2,000</b>
Towne Bank	<b>\$1,000</b>
Holtzman Vogel	<b>\$1,000</b>

### Wednesday, June 11, 2025

EVENT	SPONSOR	AMOUNT
Council Dinner Wine	President's Fund	<b>\$1,500</b>

### Thursday, June 12, 2025

EVENT	SPONSOR	AMOUNT
Opening AM Reception GentryLocke	VSB Members' Insurance Center	<b>\$10,000</b>

### Friday, June 13, 2025

EVENT	SPONSOR	AMOUNT
Run in the Sun	Virginia Lawyers Weekly	<b>\$650</b>
YLC Luncheon	YLC President's Firm	<b>\$500</b>
Bingo: Refreshments & Prizes	Walker Jones	<b>\$1,500</b>
YLC Reception	Virginia CLE	<b>\$750</b>
President's Reception	President's Fund	<b>\$9,500</b>
GentryLocke	Rakes Reception	<b>\$3,000</b>
Banquet	The McCammon Group	<b>\$5,000</b>

### Saturday, June 14, 2025

EVENT	SPONSOR	AMOUNT
Raffle/Bingo Prizes	President's Fund	<b>\$3,000</b>
Sandcastle Contest	Minnesota Lawyers Mutual	<b>\$500</b>

<b>Total of Sponsored Events</b>	<b>\$47,400</b>
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8/6/2024

## **Working Ideas for VSB 2025 Annual Meeting**

1. Dates
  - > focus some efforts on getting spouses and families to attend
  
2. Focus on getting more young attorneys to attend
  - > tie to professionalism program
  
3. Focus on getting more Bar Council members to stay and participate
  - > begin that process now/soon
  
4. Have a catchy and interesting theme to the meeting
  - > music-related?
  - > sports related?
  - > islands theme?
  
5. Have one or more “headliner” speakers
  - > could tie into CLE program (or not)
  - > Tony Bennett??
  - > Olympian from 2024? Cole Hocker? UVA swimmer? Sprinter?
  - > well-known legal reporter or scholar?
  
6. Hit the major CLE topics hard
  - > powerhouse AI panel
    - Dazza Greenwood and others from NCBP meeting?
  
7. Have some more “fun” gatherings
  - > use some outside space; we are at the beach!



8. Be clear that the attire is “more relaxed”
9. Make more out of the sections.
  - > Recognize the leaders at some meeting? General business meeting?
10. Beef up general business meeting.
  - > See above.
  - > really review what we have accomplished.
  - > put up photos.
11. Make the banquet entertainment more accessible to everyone
  - > what/who will we have?
12. Sporting events?
  - > add pickleball tourney?
  - > cornhole again? Better?

**VSB BAM Committee  
Future Planning Subcommittee**

- 1) Members
  - a. Alexandra Ribe
  - b. Ben Shute
  - c. Claire Gastanga
  - d. Hon. Dipti Pidikiti-Smith
  - e. Karen McWilliams
  - f. Nate Olson
  - g. Brett Marston
  - h. Chris Fortier
  - i. Eva Juncker
  
- 2) Mission for the Strategic Planning **Draft**
  - a. The Committee is established to review, research, and enhance the VSB annual meeting with a goal of exceptional educational opportunities, greater member participation and member engagement.
  
- 3) Considerations for the Sub-committee
  - a. Dates of Annual Meeting
  - b. Locations
  - c. Member Participation and Engagement