

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

William R. Rakes Leadership in Education Award

The Section on the Education of Lawyers in Virginia has established an award to honor William R. Rakes, of Gentry Locke, for his longstanding and dedicated efforts in the field of legal education, both in Virginia and nationally. The inaugural award was presented to Mr. Rakes in conjunction with the 20th Anniversary Conclave on the Education of Lawyers in Virginia sponsored by the Virginia State Bar's Section on the Education of Lawyers in April 2012.

Past Recipients

2025 — Kevin E. Martingayle	2019 — Thomas A. Edmonds	2014 — Hon. Elizabeth B. Lacy
2024 — B. Keith Faulkner	2018 — Stephen A. Isaacs	2013 — W. Taylor Reveley III
2023 — Anita O. Poston	2017 — James E. Moliterno	2012 Inaugural Recipient — William R. Rakes
2022 — A. Benjamin Spencer	2016 — Hon. Donald W. Lemons	
2020 — Jeannie P. Dahnk	2015 — Hon. B. Waugh Crigler	

Criteria

This award recognizes an individual from the bench, the practicing bar, or the academy who has:

1. demonstrated exceptional leadership and vision in developing and implementing innovative concepts to improve and enhance the state of legal education, and in enhancing relationships and professionalism among members of the academy, the bench, and the bar within the legal profession in Virginia.
2. made a significant contribution (a) to improving the state of legal education in Virginia, both in law school and throughout a lawyer's career; and (b) to enhancing communication, cooperation, and meaningful collaboration among the three constituencies of the legal profession.

Nomination Process

Nominations will be invited annually by the Section on the Education of Lawyers. A selection committee appointed by the section's board of governors will meet annually to discuss possible nominations. The selection committee will include five members: at least three members of the Section on the Education of Lawyers, with one each from the bench, the practicing bar, and the academy, including the chair of the section; and at least one former award winner. The award may only be made from time to time at the discretion of the selection committee.

When a nominee is selected, the award will be presented at a special event to include a reception for the honoree and his/her family, friends and colleagues; past award recipients; and special guests. The law firm of Gentry Locke has agreed to underwrite the award and the special event to honor award recipients on an ongoing basis. Please submit the nomination form below, together with a letter describing specifically the manner in which your nominee meets the criteria established for the award. Nominations should be addressed to **Michael Finney**, Chair, Section on the Education of Lawyers, and submitted with your nomination letter to the Virginia State Bar: 1111 East Main Street, Suite 700, Richmond, VA 23219-0026.

Nominations must be received no later than December 5, 2025. For questions about the nomination process, please contact Section Liaison Megan R. Connor: (804) 775-0517 or mconnor@vsb.org.

WILLIAM R. RAKES LEADERSHIP IN EDUCATION AWARD NOMINATION FORM

Please complete this form and return it with your nomination letter to the Virginia State Bar: 1111 East Main Street, Suite 700, Richmond, VA 23219-0026. **Nominations must be received no later than December 5, 2025.**

Name of Nominee: _____

Profession: _____

Employer/Affiliation (Law Firm, Law School, Court): _____

Address of Nominee: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Name of Nominator: _____ Telephone: _____

Email: _____ Signature: _____